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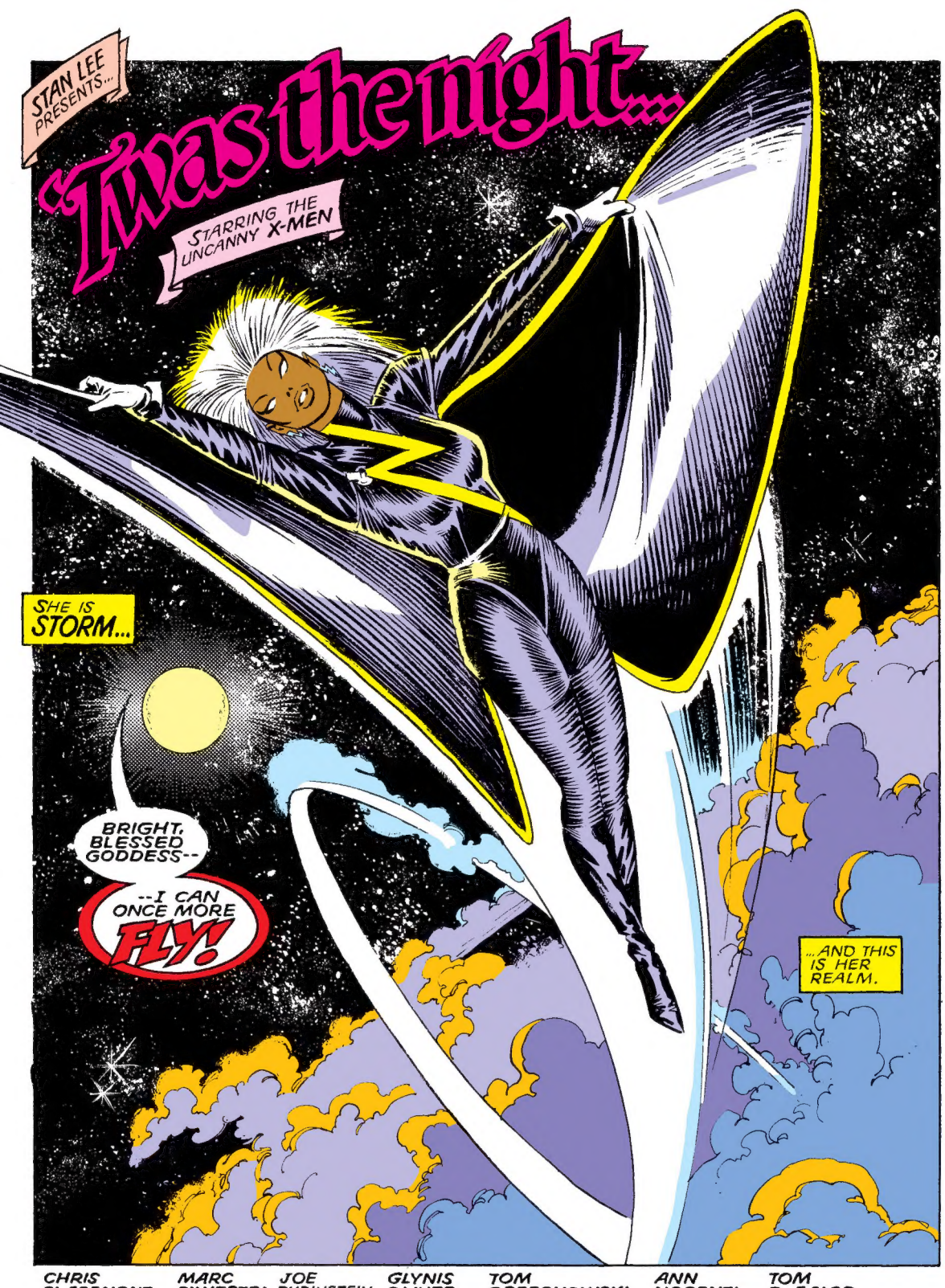

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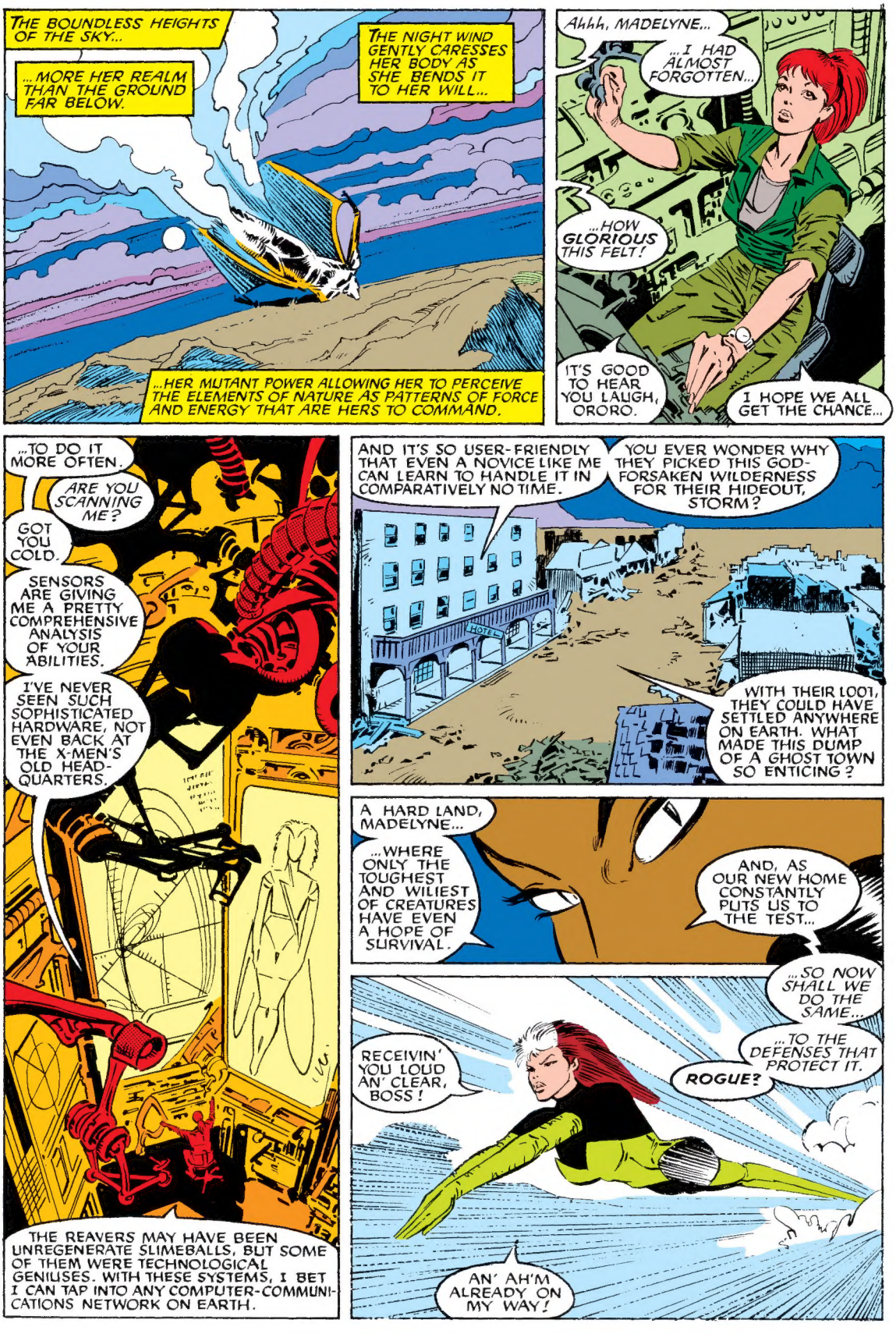
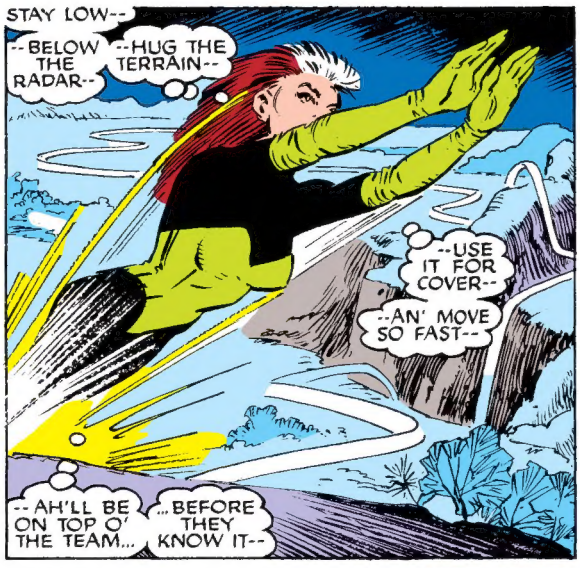
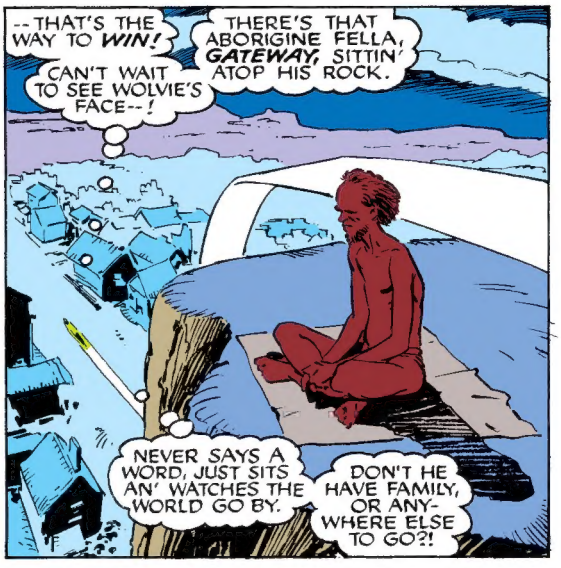
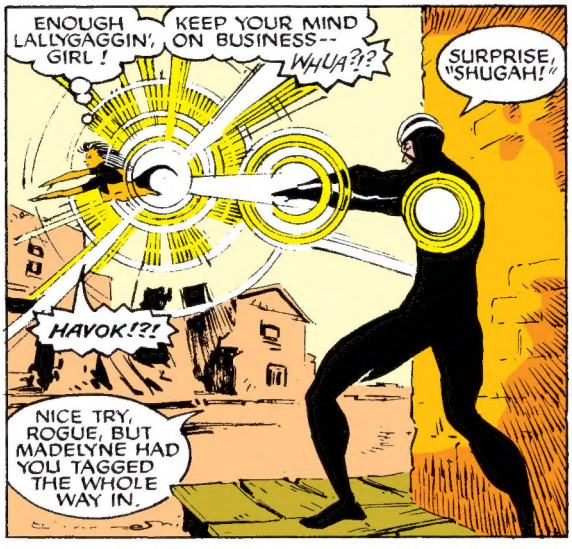
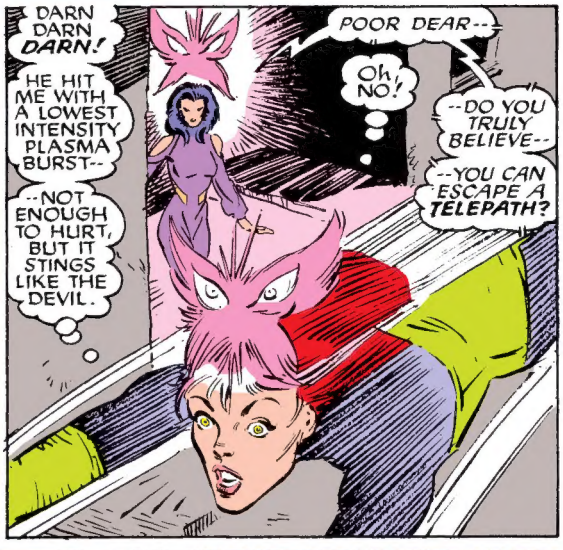
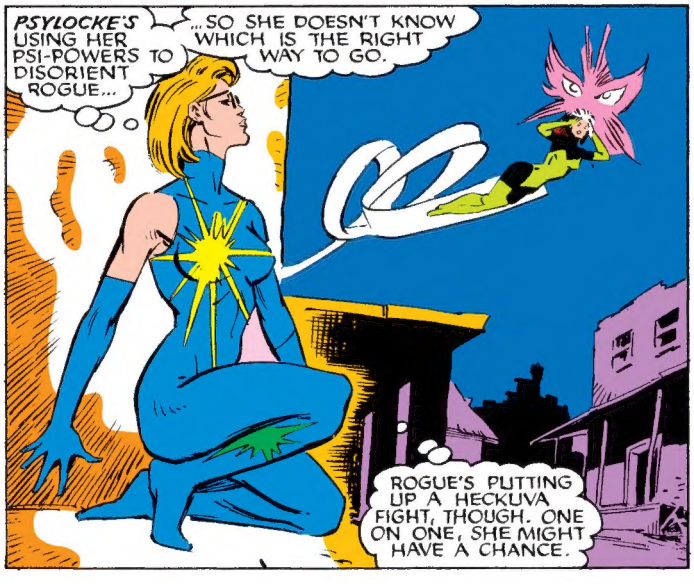

THE BOUNDLESS HEIGHTS OF THE SKY...
...MORE HER REALM THAN THE GROUND FAR BELOW.
THE NIGHT WIND GENTLY CARESSES HER BODY AS SHE BENDS IT TO HER WILL...
...HER MUTANT POWER ALLOWING HER TO PERCEIVE THE ELEMENTS OF NATURE AS PATTERNS OF FORCE AND ENERGY THAT ARE HERS TO COMMAND.
Ahhh, MADELYNE...
...I HAD ALMOST FORGOTTEN...
...HOW GLORIOUS THIS FELT!
IT'S GOOD TO HEAR YOU LAUGH, ORORO.
I HOPE WE ALL GET THE CHANCE...
...TO DO IT MORE OFTEN.
ARE YOU SCANNING ME?
GOT YOU COLD.
SENSORS ARE GIVING ME A PRETTY COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF YOUR ABILITIES.
I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH SOPHISTICATED HARDWARE, NOT EVEN BACK AT THE X-MEN'S OLD HEAD-QUARTERS.
THE REAVERS MAY HAVE BEEN UNREGENERATE SLIMEBALLS, BUT SOME OF THEM WERE TECHNOLOGICAL GENIUSES. WITH THESE SYSTEMS, I BET I CAN TAP INTO ANY COMPUTER-COMMUNI-CATIONS NETWORK ON EARTH.
AND IT'S SO USER-FRIENDLY THAT EVEN A NOVICE LIKE ME CAN LEARN TO HANDLE IT IN COMPARATIVELY NO TIME.
YOU EVER WONDER WHY THEY PICKED THIS GOD-FORSAKEN WILDERNESS FOR THEIR HIDEOUT, STORM?
HOTEL
WITH THEIR LOOT, THEY COULD HAVE SETTLED ANYWHERE ON EARTH. WHAT MADE THIS DUMP OF A GHOST TOWN SO ENTICING?
A HARD LAND, MADELYNE...
...WHERE ONLY THE TOUGHEST AND WILIEST OF CREATURES HAVE EVEN A HOPE OF SURVIVAL.
AND, AS OUR NEW HOME CONSTANTLY PUTS US TO THE TEST...
...SO NOW SHALL WE DO THE SAME...
...TO THE DEFENSES THAT PROTECT IT.
ROGUE?
RECEIVIN' YOU LOUD AN' CLEAR, BOSS!
AN' AH'M ALREADY ON MY WAY!

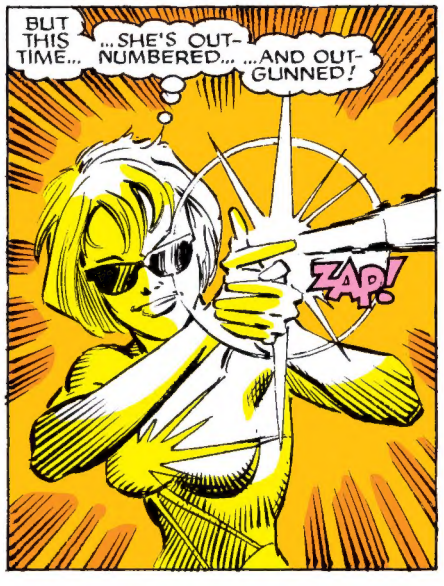

STAY LOW--
--BELOW THE RADAR--
--HUG THE TERRAIN--
--USE IT FOR COVER--
--AN' MOVE SO FAST--
--AH'LL BE ON TOP O' THE TEAM...
...BEFORE THEY KNOW IT--

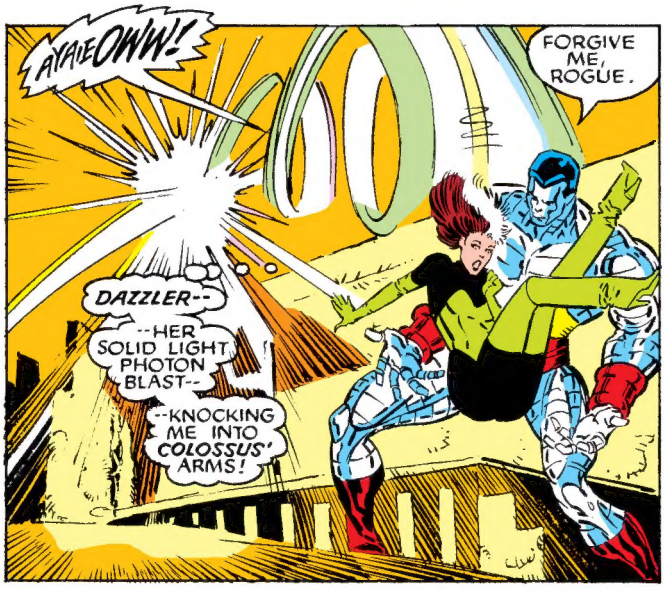

--THAT'S THE WAY TO WIN!
THERE'S THAT ABORIGINE FELLA, GATEWAY, SITTIN' ATOP HIS ROCK.
CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WOLVIE'S FACE--!
NEVER SAYS A WORD, JUST SITS AN' WATCHES THE WORLD GO BY.
DON'T HE HAVE FAMILY, OR ANY-WHERE ELSE TO GO?!

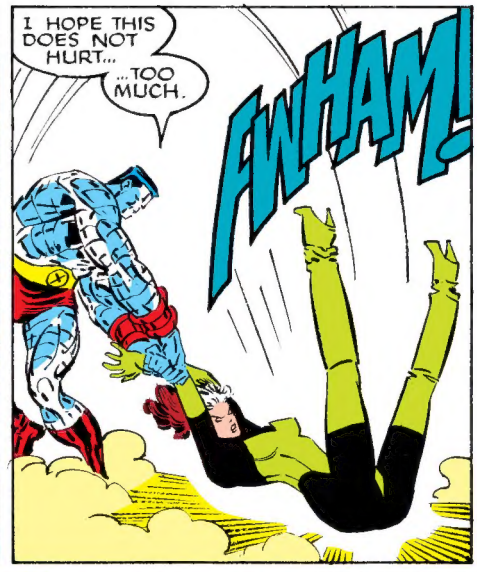

ENOUGH LALLYGAGGIN', GIRL!
KEEP YOUR MIND ON BUSINESS--
WHUA?!?
SURPRISE, "SHUGAH!"
HAVOK!?!
NICE TRY, ROGUE, BUT MADELYNE HAD YOU TAGGED THE WHOLE WAY IN.

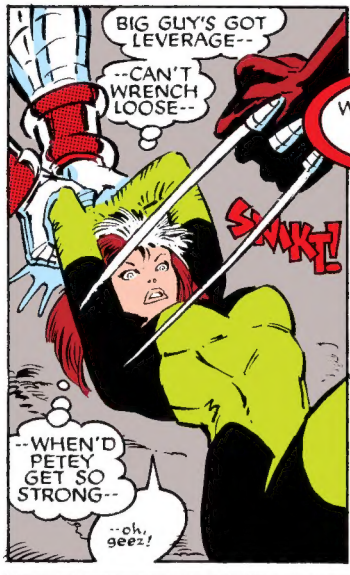

DARN DARN DARN!
HE HIT ME WITH A LOWEST INTENSITY PLASMA BURST--
--NOT ENOUGH TO HURT, BUT IT STINGS LIKE THE DEVIL.
POOR DEAR--
Oh, NO!
--DO YOU TRULY BELIEVE--
--YOU CAN ESCAPE A TELEPATH?


PSYLOCKE'S USING HER PSI-POWERS TO DISORIENT ROGUE...
...SO SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHICH IS THE RIGHT WAY TO GO.
ROGUE'S PUTTING UP A HECKUVA FIGHT, THOUGH. ONE ON ONE, SHE MIGHT HAVE A CHANCE.

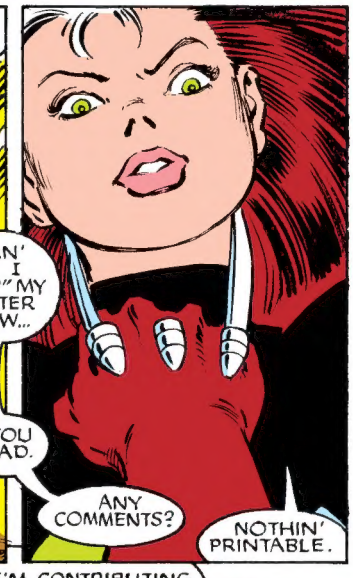

BUT THIS TIME...
...SHE'S OUT-NUMBERED...
...AND OUT-GUNNED!
ZAP!

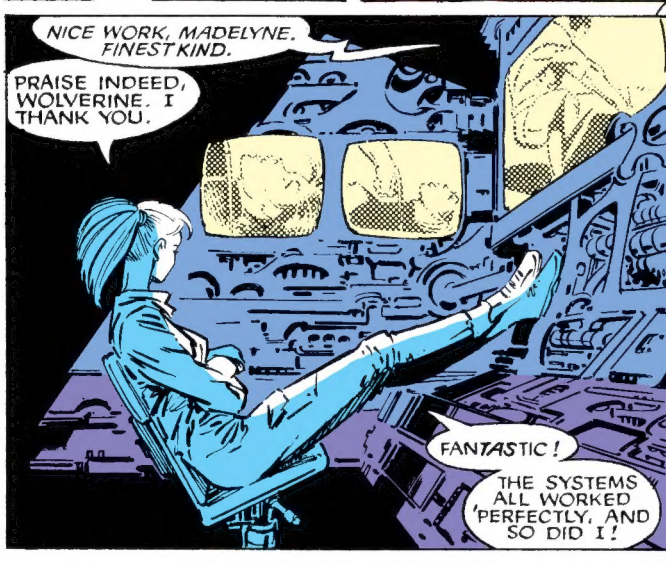

AYAIEOWW!
FORGIVE ME, ROGUE.
DAZZLER--
--HER SOLID LIGHT PHOTON BLAST--
--KNOCKING ME INTO COLOSSUS' ARMS!


I HOPE THIS DOES NOT HURT...
...TOO MUCH.
FWHAM!

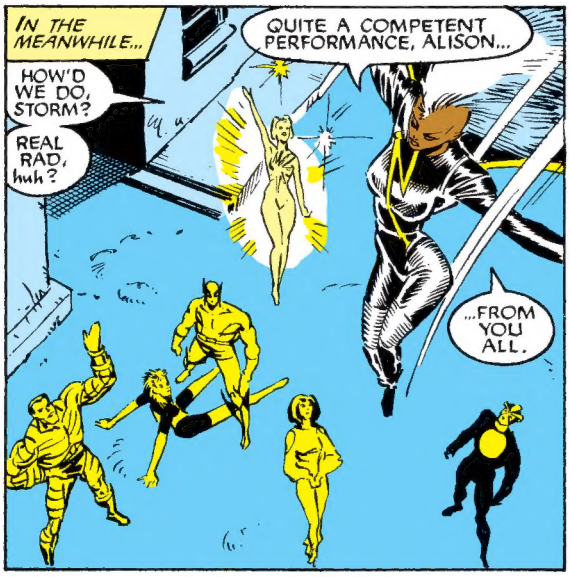

BIG GUY'S GOT LEVERAGE--
--CAN'T WRENCH LOOSE--
SNIKT!
--WHEN'D PETEY GET SO STRONG--
--oh, geez!

GAME'S OVER, DARLIN!
WOLVERINE, NO!
YOU LOSE.
AN' IF I "POP" MY CENTER CLAW...
...YOU DEAD.

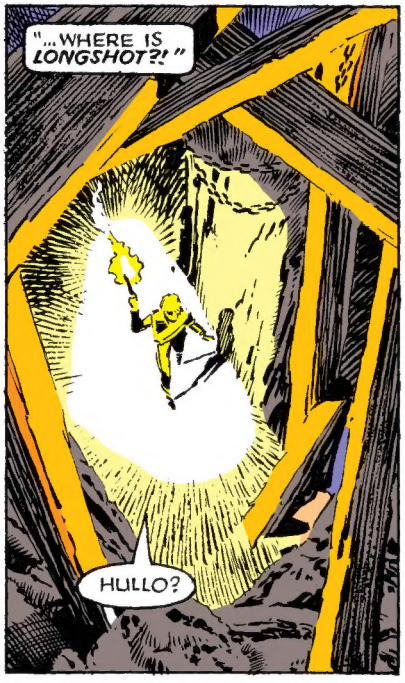

ANY COMMENTS?
NOTHIN' PRINTABLE.


NICE WORK, MADELYNE. FINEST KIND.
PRAISE INDEED, WOLVERINE. I THANK YOU.
FANTASTIC!
THE SYSTEMS ALL WORKED PERFECTLY, AND SO DID I!

FINALLY, I'M CONTRIBUTING TO THE TEAM, PULLING MY OWN WEIGHT. NICE TO DISCOVER, AT LONG LAST, THAT I STILL HAVE WORTH--TO THE X-MEN AS MUCH AS TO MYSELF.
THE MARAUDERS MAY HAVE STOLEN MY BABY, BUT BY HEAVEN--NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES OR WHAT IT COSTS-- I MEAN TO GET HIM BACK.
AND MAKE THE SWINE WHO STOLE HIM PAY!
A HEARTFELT PROMISE. A PITY MADELYNE PRYOR DOESN'T REMEMBER THAT ONE SHOULD ALWAYS BE CAREFUL WHAT ONE WISHES FOR...
BUT THAT'S A STORY FOR ANOTHER DAY...

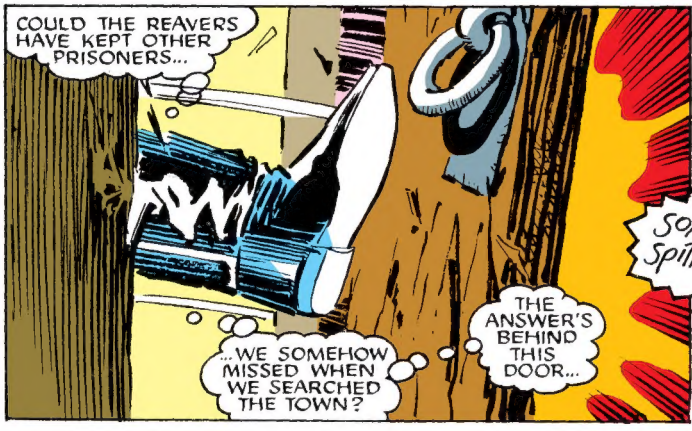

IN THE MEANWHILE...
QUITE A COMPETENT PERFORMANCE, ALISON...
HOW'D WE DO, STORM?
REAL RAD, huh?
...FROM YOU ALL.

ONE O' THESE DAYS, SHORT-STUFF...
MAYBE SO, SWEETHEART --BUT TILL THEN...
...IT'S GONNA BE YOUR BUTT IN THE DIRT.
...YOU BUY THE BEER.
WOLVERINE--THIS WAS A TEST FOR THE ENTIRE TEAM...

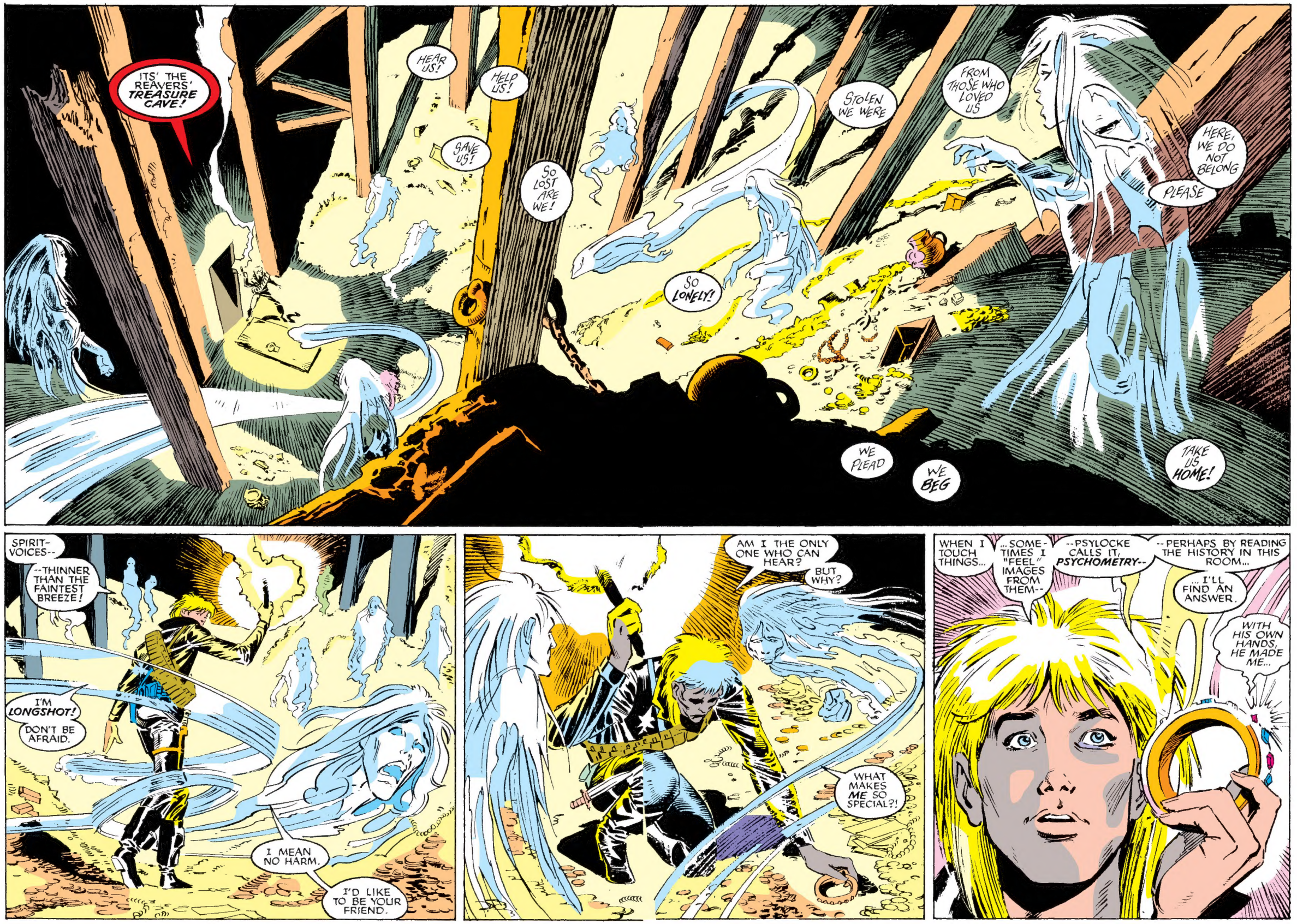

"...WHERE IS LONGSHOT?!"
HULLO?

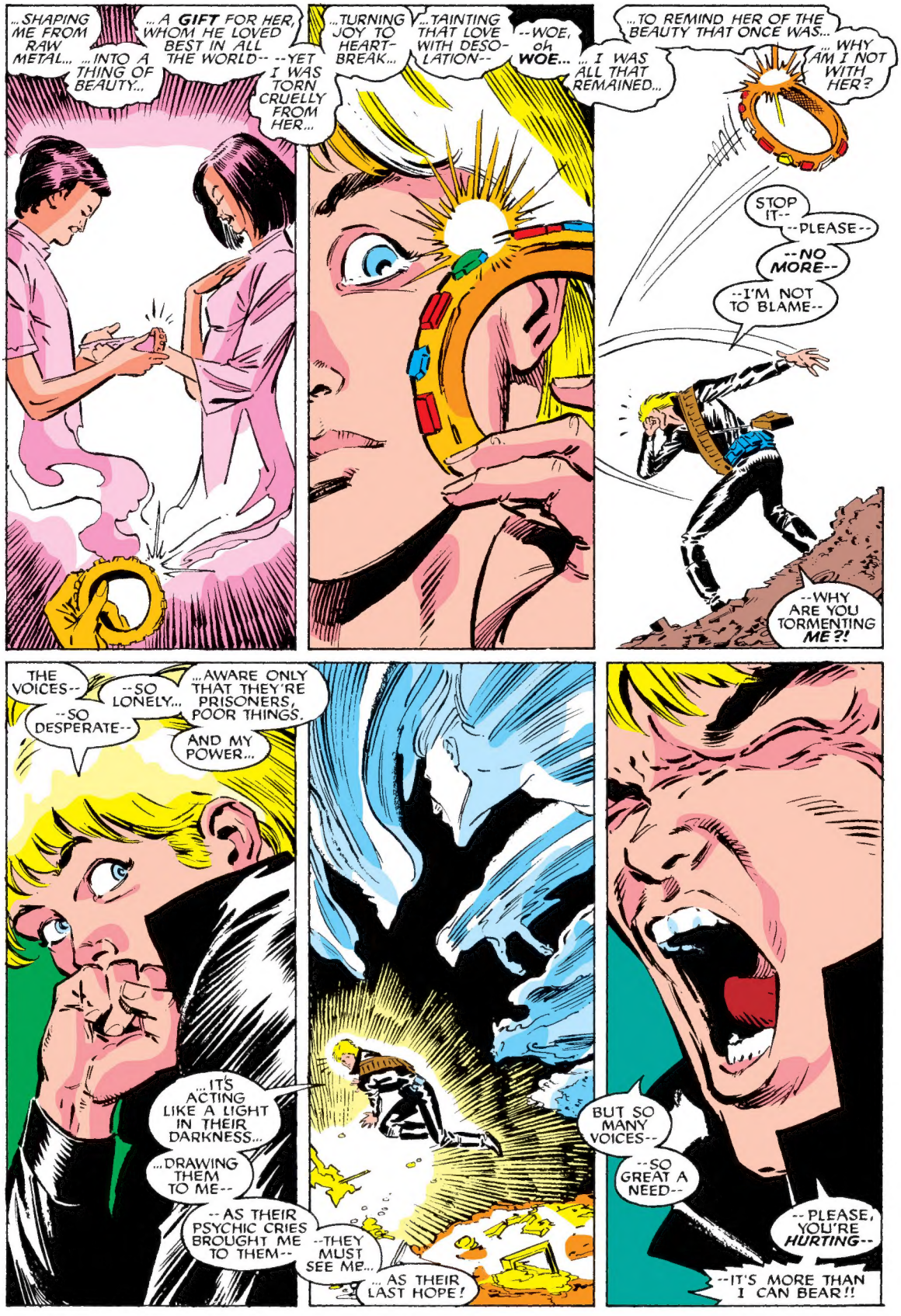
IS ANYONE HERE?!

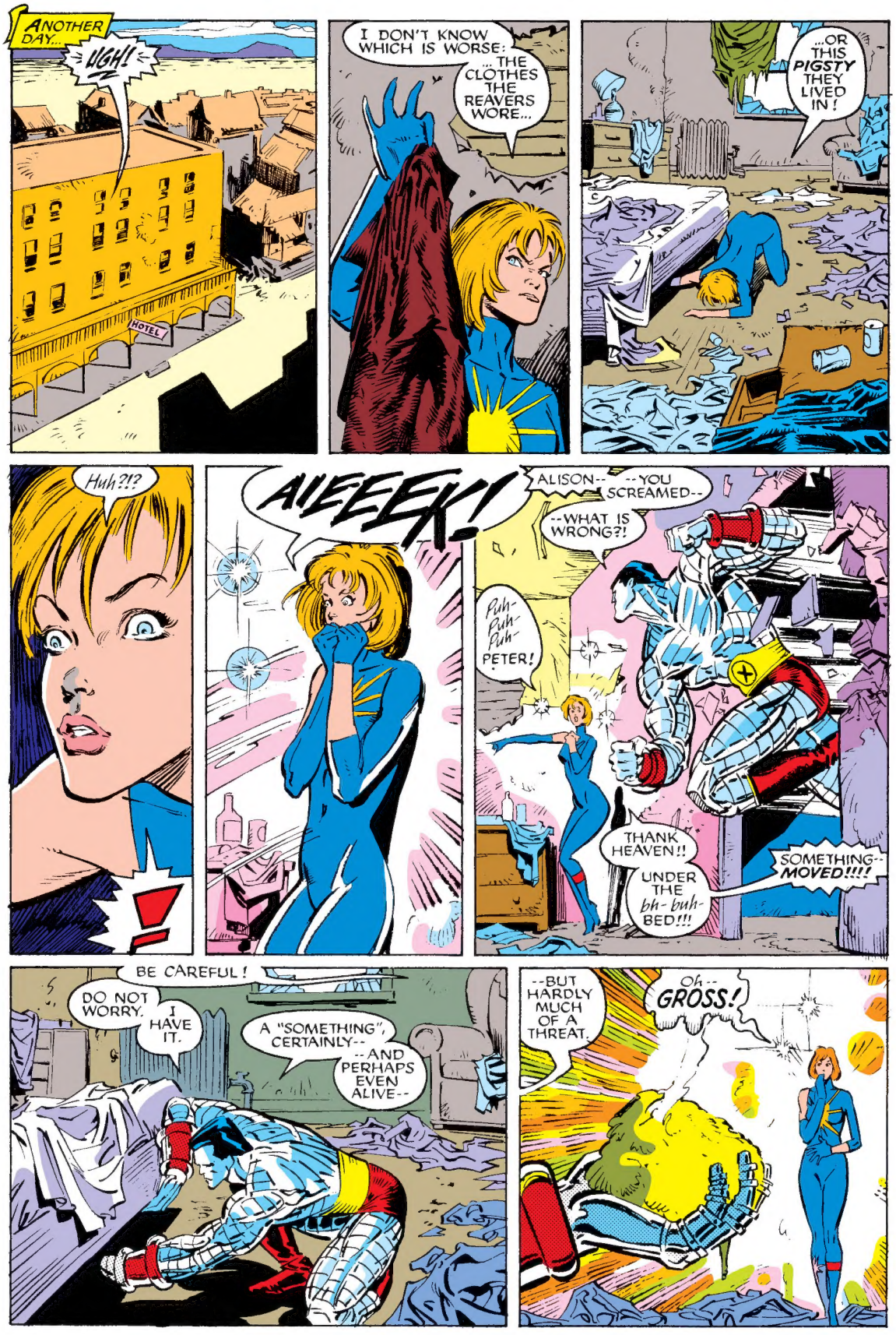
WHY DO YOU KEEP CALLING OUT TO ME?!!
WHY--WHERE--ARE YOU HIDING?!?
I SHOULD HAVE TOLD THE OTHERS.
BUT THE VOICES SOUNDED SO LONELY AND SCARED.
I DIDN'T WANT TO FRIGHTEN THEM MORE.

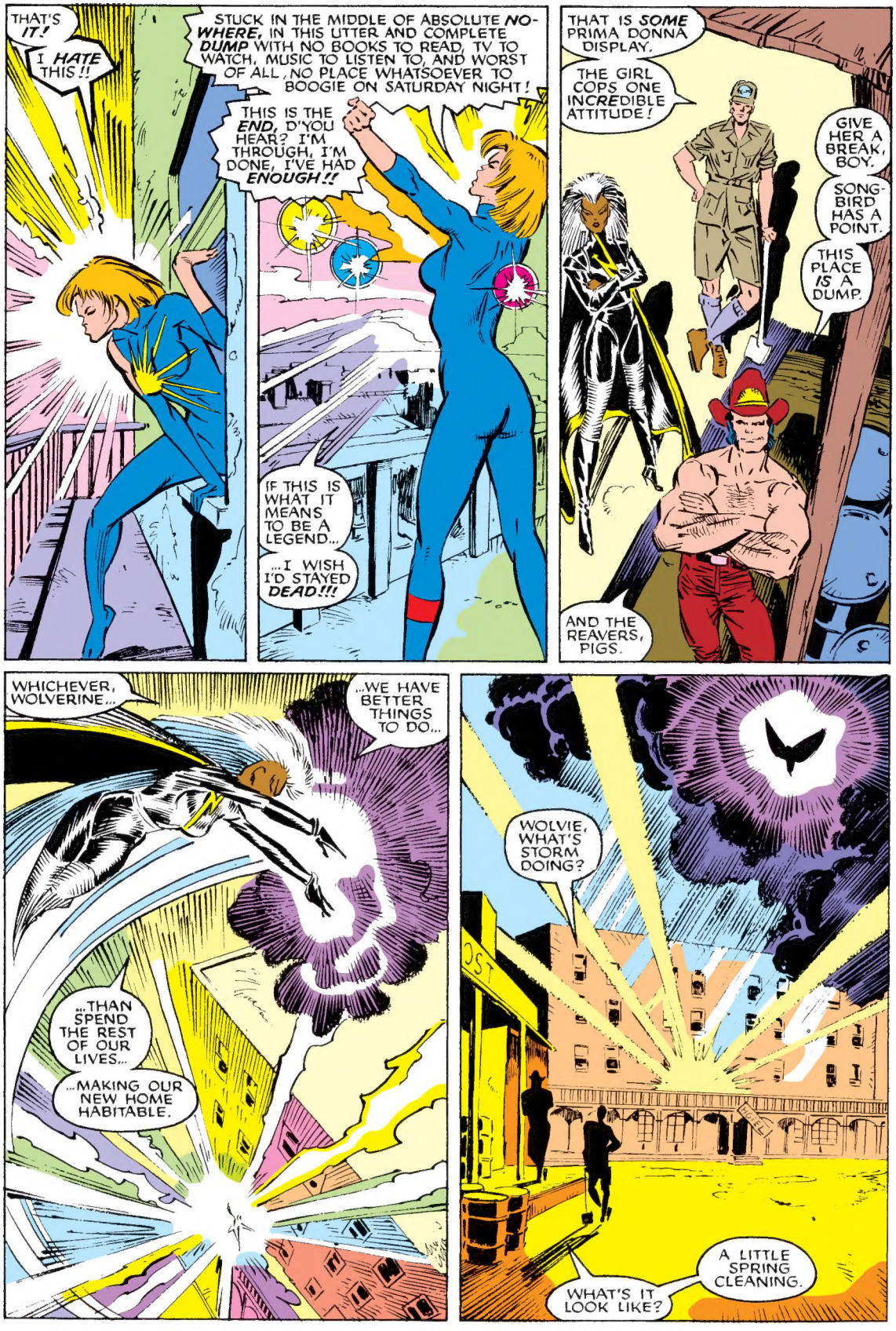

COULD THE REAVERS HAVE KEPT OTHER PRISONERS...
...WE SOMEHOW MISSED WHEN WE SEARCHED THE TOWN?
THE ANSWER'S BEHIND THIS DOOR...

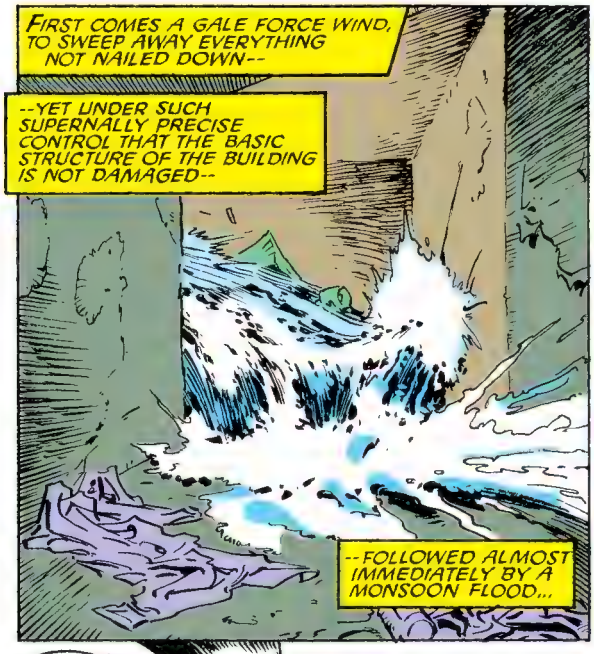
SOARING SPITFIRES!?!

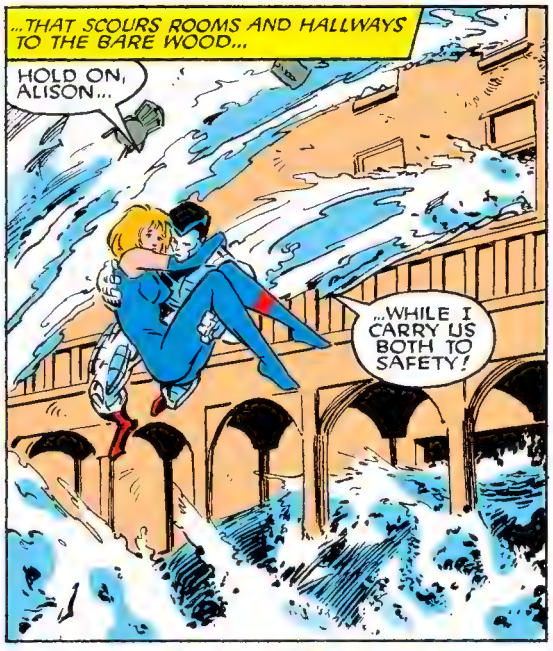

ITS' THE REAVERS' TREASURE CAVE!
HEAR US!
HELP US!
SAVE US!
SO LOST ARE WE!
SO LONELY!
STOLEN WE WERE
FROM THOSE WHO LOVED US
HERE, WE DO NOT BELONG
PLEASE
WE PLEAD
WE BEG
TAKE US HOME!
SPIRIT-VOICES--
--THINNER THAN THE FAINTEST BREEZE!
I'M LONGSHOT!
DON'T BE AFRAID.
I MEAN NO HARM.
I'D LIKE TO BE YOUR FRIEND.
AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN HEAR?
BUT WHY?
WHAT MAKES ME SO SPECIAL?!
WHEN I TOUCH THINGS...
...SOME-TIMES I "FEEL" IMAGES FROM THEM--
--PSYLOCKE CALLS IT, PSYCHOMETRY--
--PERHAPS BY READING THE HISTORY IN THIS ROOM...
...I'LL FIND AN ANSWER.
WITH HIS OWN HANDS, HE MADE ME...

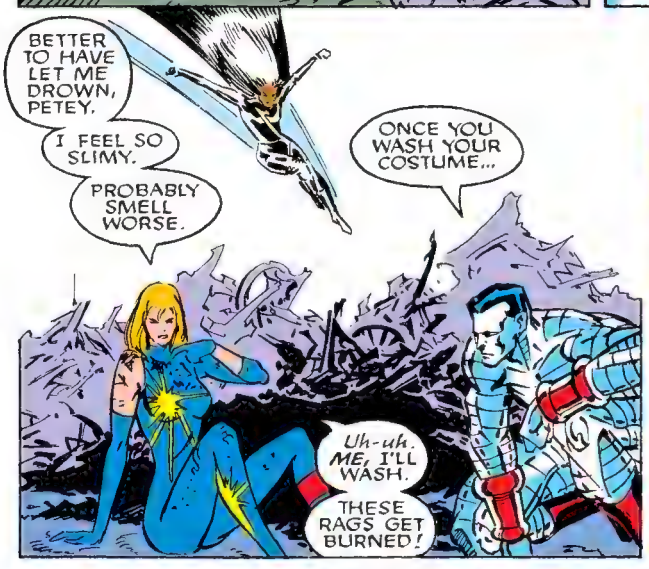

...SHAPING ME FROM RAW METAL...
...INTO A THING OF BEAUTY...
...A GIFT FOR HER, WHOM HE LOVED BEST IN ALL THE WORLD--
--YET I WAS TORN CRUELLY FROM HER...
...TURNING JOY TO HEART-BREAK...
...TAINTING THAT LOVE WITH DESO-LATION--
--WOE, oh WOE...
... I WAS ALL THAT REMAINED...
...TO REMIND HER OF THE BEAUTY THAT ONCE WAS...
... WHY AM I NOT WITH HER?
STOP IT--
--PLEASE--
--NO MORE--
--I'M NOT TO BLAME--
--WHY ARE YOU TORMENTING ME?!
THE VOICES--
--SO LONELY...
--SO DESPERATE--
...AWARE ONLY THAT THEY'RE PRISONERS, POOR THINGS.
AND MY POWER...
...IT'S ACTING LIKE A LIGHT IN THEIR DARKNESS...
...DRAWING THEM TO ME--
--AS THEIR PSYCHIC CRIES BROUGHT ME TO THEM--
--THEY MUST SEE ME...
... AS THEIR LAST HOPE!
BUT SO MANY VOICES--
--SO GREAT A NEED--
--PLEASE, YOU'RE HURTING--
--IT'S MORE THAN I CAN BEAR!!

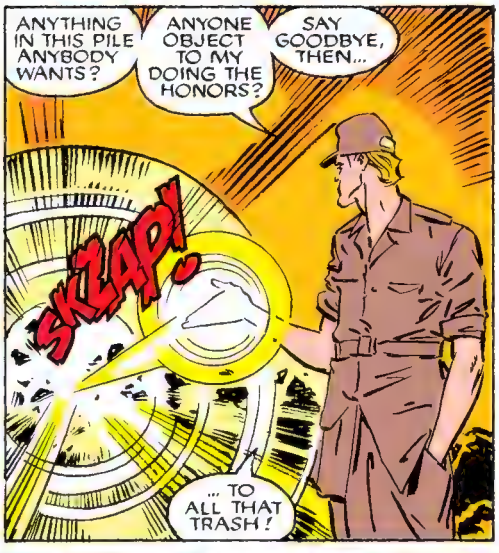

ANOTHER DAY...
UGH!
HOTEL
I DON'T KNOW WHICH IS WORSE:
... THE CLOTHES THE REAVERS WORE...
...OR THIS PIGSTY THEY LIVED IN!
Huh?!?
AIEEEK!
ALISON--
--YOU SCREAMED--
--WHAT IS WRONG?!
Puh-Puh-Puh-PETER!
THANK HEAVEN!!
UNDER THE bh-buh-BED!!!
SOMETHING--MOVED!!!!
BE CAREFUL!
DO NOT WORRY.
I HAVE IT.
A "SOMETHING", CERTAINLY--
--AND PERHAPS EVEN ALIVE--
--BUT HARDLY MUCH OF A THREAT.
Oh--GROSS!

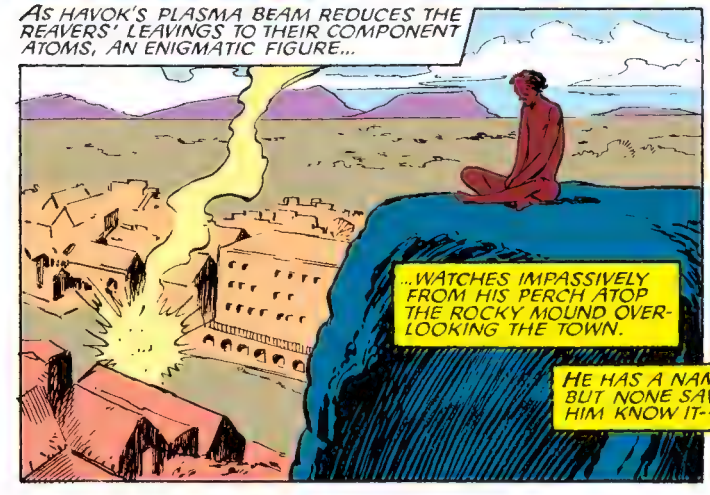

THAT'S IT!
I HATE THIS!!
STUCK IN THE MIDDLE OF ABSOLUTE NOWHERE, IN THIS UTTER AND COMPLETE DUMP WITH NO BOOKS TO READ, TV TO WATCH, MUSIC TO LISTEN TO, AND WORST OF ALL, NO PLACE WHATSOEVER TO BOOGIE ON SATURDAY NIGHT!
THIS IS THE END, D'YOU HEAR? I'M THROUGH, I'M DONE, I'VE HAD ENOUGH!!
IF THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A LEGEND...
...I WISH I'D STAYED DEAD!!!
THAT IS SOME PRIMA DONNA DISPLAY.
THE GIRL COPS ONE INCREDIBLE ATTITUDE!
GIVE HER A BREAK, BOY.
SONG-BIRD HAS A POINT.
THIS PLACE IS A DUMP.
AND THE REAVERS, PIGS.
WHICHEVER, WOLVERINE...
...WE HAVE BETTER THINGS TO DO...
...THAN SPEND THE REST OF OUR LIVES...
...MAKING OUR NEW HOME HABITABLE.
WOLVIE, WHAT'S STORM DOING?
A LITTLE SPRING CLEANING.
WHAT'S IT LOOK LIKE?


FIRST COMES A GALE FORCE WIND, TO SWEEP AWAY EVERYTHING NOT NAILED DOWN--
--YET UNDER SUCH SUPERNALLY PRECISE CONTROL THAT THE BASIC STRUCTURE OF THE BUILDING IS NOT DAMAGED--
--FOLLOWED ALMOST IMMEDIATELY BY A MONSOON FLOOD...

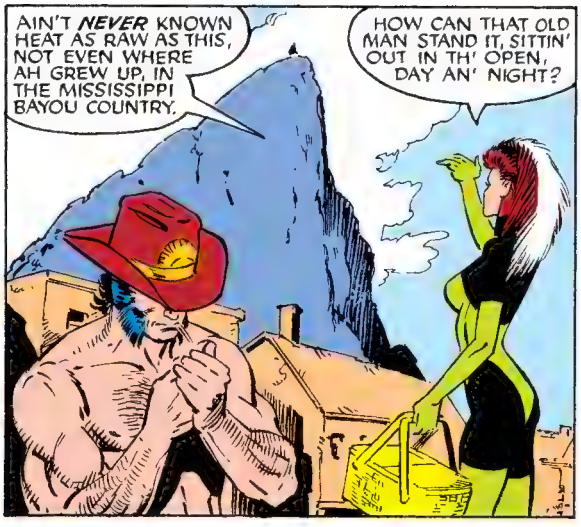

...THAT SCOURS ROOMS AND HALLWAYS TO THE BARE WOOD...
HOLD ON, ALISON...
...WHILE I CARRY US BOTH TO SAFETY!


BETTER TO HAVE LET ME DROWN, PETEY.
I FEEL SO SLIMY.
PROBABLY SMELL WORSE.
ONCE YOU WASH YOUR COSTUME...
Uh-uh. ME, I'LL WASH.
THESE RAGS GET BURNED!

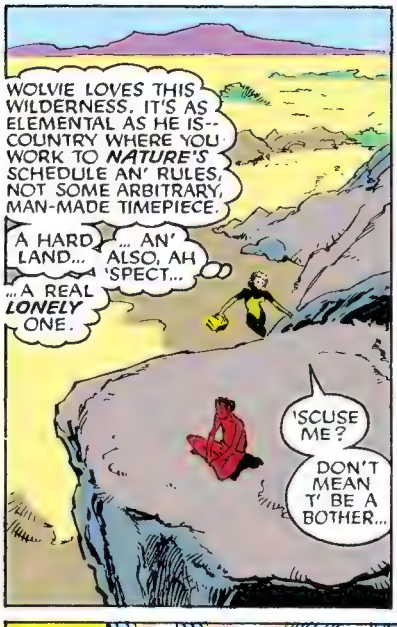

ANYTHING IN THIS PILE ANYBODY WANTS?
ANYONE OBJECT TO MY DOING THE HONORS?
SAY GOODBYE, THEN...
SKZAP!
... TO ALL THAT TRASH!


AS HAVOK'S PLASMA BEAM REDUCES THE REAVERS' LEAVINGS TO THEIR COMPONENT ATOMS, AN ENIGMATIC FIGURE...
...WATCHES IMPASSIVELY FROM HIS PERCH ATOP THE ROCKY MOUND OVER-LOOKING THE TOWN.
HE HAS A NAME, BUT NONE SAVE HIM KNOW IT--

--SO THE X-MEN USE THE ONE THE REAVERS GAVE HIM: GATEWAY.

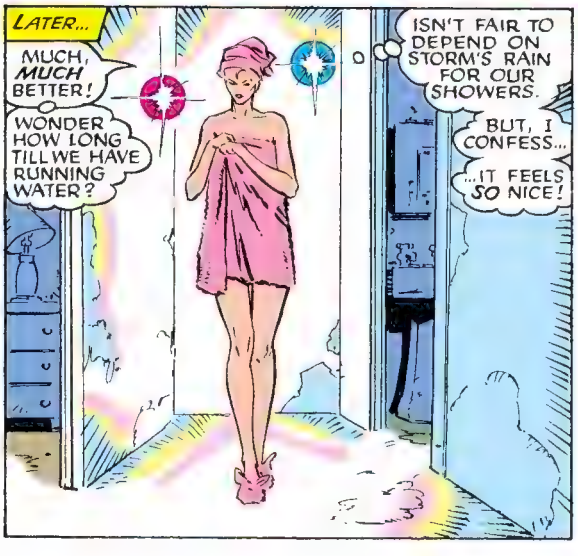

AIN'T NEVER KNOWN HEAT AS RAW AS THIS, NOT EVEN WHERE AH GREW UP, IN THE MISSISSIPPI BAYOU COUNTRY.
HOW CAN THAT OLD MAN STAND IT, SITTIN' OUT IN TH' OPEN, DAY AN' NIGHT?

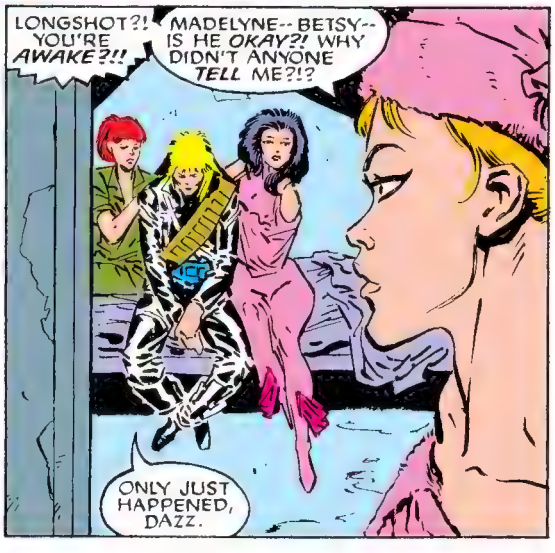
ME, I WONDER WHAT HE'S LOOKING AT.
HE WANTS US TO KNOW, HAVOK, HE'LL TELL US.
THIS IS HIS LAND. WE'RE THE JOHNNY-COME-LATELY INTRUDERS.
XAVIER'S
UP TO US TO PROVE WE BELONG.

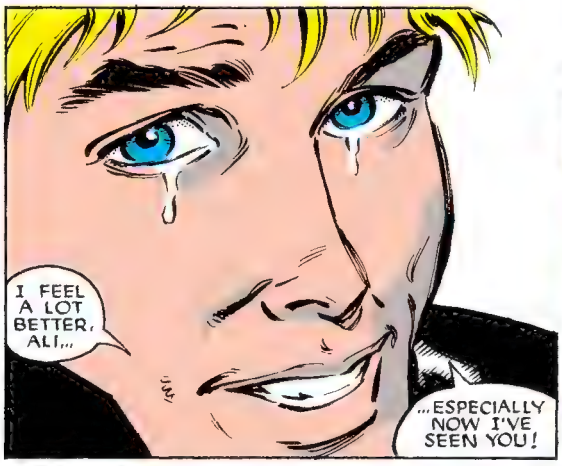

WOLVIE LOVES THIS WILDERNESS. IT'S AS ELEMENTAL AS HE IS--COUNTRY WHERE YOU WORK TO NATURE'S SCHEDULE AN' RULES, NOT SOME ARBITRARY, MAN-MADE TIMEPIECE.
A HARD LAND...
... AN' ALSO, AH 'SPECT...
...A REAL LONELY ONE.
'SCUSE ME?
DON'T MEAN T' BE A BOTHER...

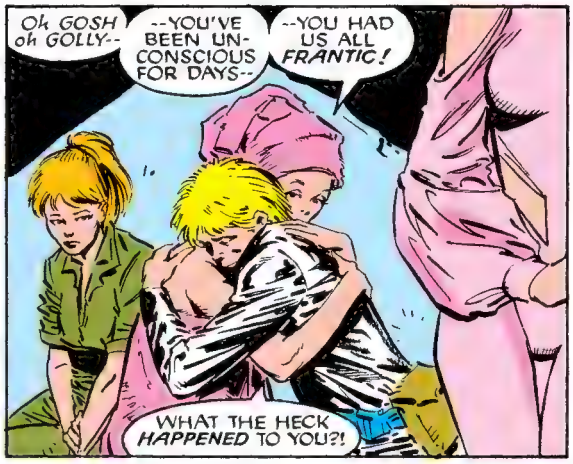
...BUT IN ALL THE TIME SINCE WE ARRIVED, AH HAVEN'T SEEN YOU EAT.
AH S'POSE IT SOUNDS SILLY...
...BUT AH SORT' A GOT WORRIED...
...THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE SOME FOOD.

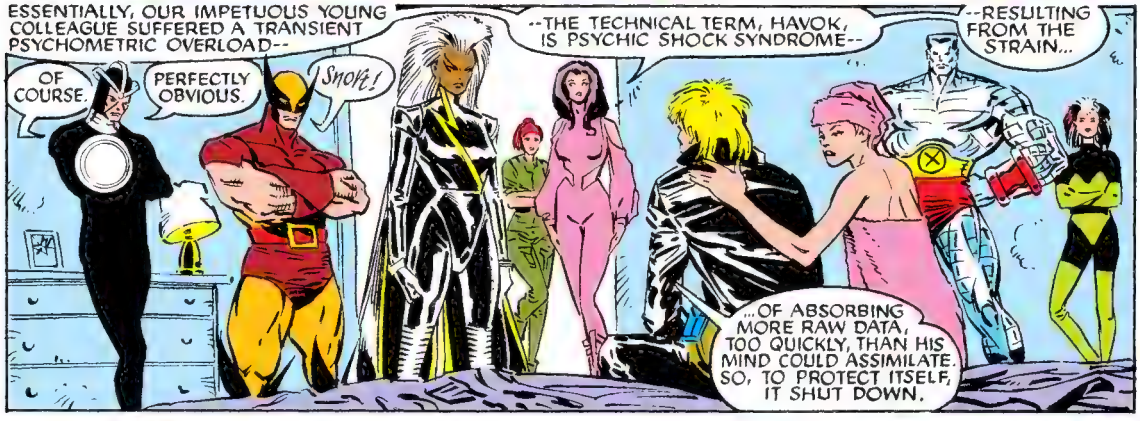
'FRAID AH AIN'T MUCH OF A COOK...
...HOPE YOU LIKE IT.
MY NAME'S ROGUE.


LATER...
MUCH, MUCH BETTER!
WONDER HOW LONG TILL WE HAVE RUNNING WATER?
ISN'T FAIR TO DEPEND ON STORM'S RAIN FOR OUR SHOWERS.
BUT, I CONFESS...
...IT FEELS SO NICE!


LONGSHOT?! YOU'RE AWAKE?!!
MADELYNE--BETSY--IS HE OKAY?! WHY DIDN'T ANYONE TELL ME?!?
ONLY JUST HAPPENED, DAZZ.


I FEEL A LOT BETTER, ALI...
...ESPECIALLY NOW I'VE SEEN YOU!

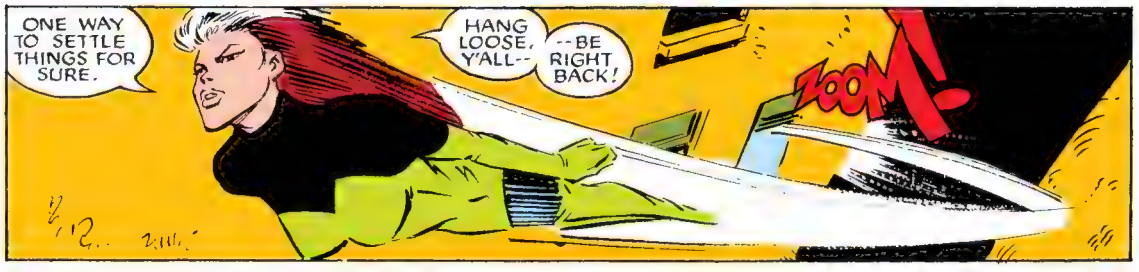

Oh GOSH oh GOLLY--
--YOU'VE BEEN UN-CONSCIOUS FOR DAYS--
--YOU HAD US ALL FRANTIC!
WHAT THE HECK HAPPENED TO YOU?!

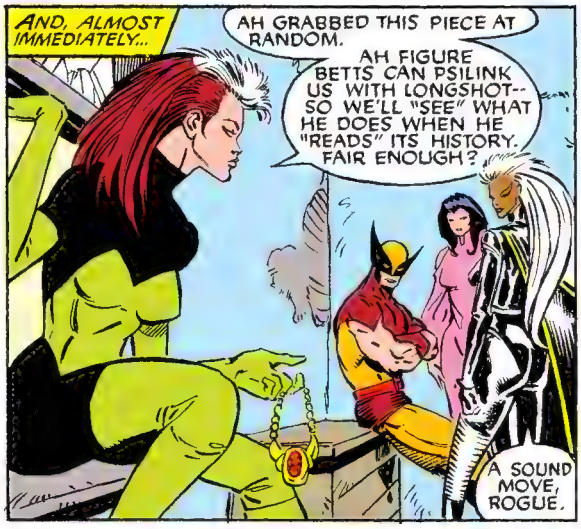

ESSENTIALLY, OUR IMPETUOUS YOUNG COLLEAGUE SUFFERED A TRANSIENT PSYCHOMETRIC OVERLOAD--
OF COURSE.
PERFECTLY OBVIOUS.
Snort!
--THE TECHNICAL TERM, HAVOK, IS PSYCHIC SHOCK SYNDROME--
--RESULTING FROM THE STRAIN...
...OF ABSORBING MORE RAW DATA, TOO QUICKLY, THAN HIS MIND COULD ASSIMILATE. SO, TO PROTECT ITSELF, IT SHUT DOWN.

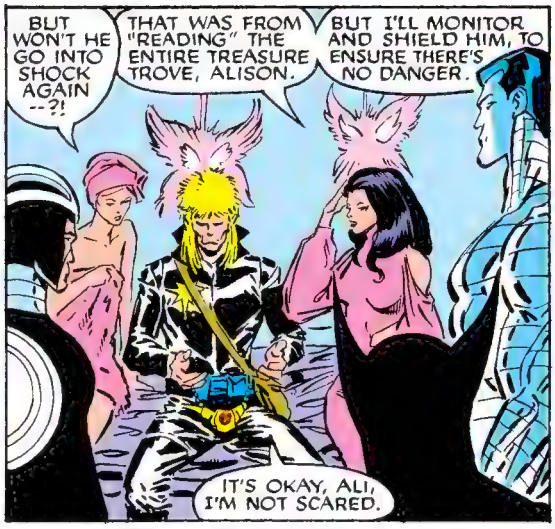
AS NEARLY AS I CAN DETERMINE, THERE'S NO PERMANENT DAMAGE.
THANK YOU, ELIZABETH.
HAVE YOU AN EXPLANATION, LONGSHOT?
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE WITH US, ON THE TRAIN-ING EXERCISE.

I KNOW, STORM. I'M SORRY--
--BUT THE TREASURE...
...CALLED TO ME.
THEY WANT TO GO HOME.
"THEY'RE INANIMATE OBJECTS, PAL. THEY CAN'T TALK."
YOU MAY BELIEVE SO, HAVOK...

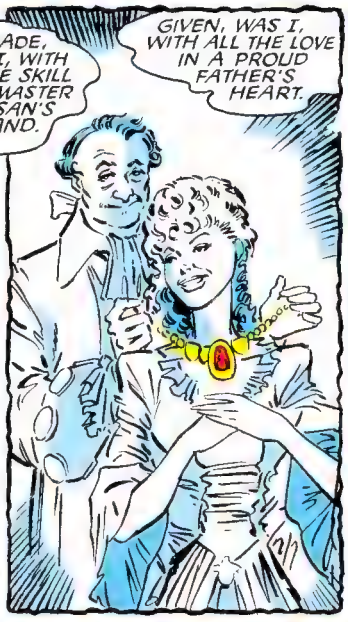
...BUT LONG-SHOT KNOWS DIFFERENTLY.


ONE WAY TO SETTLE THINGS FOR SURE.
HANG LOOSE, Y'ALL--
--BE RIGHT BACK!
ZOOM!


AND, ALMOST IMMEDIATELY...
AH GRABBED THIS PIECE AT RANDOM.
AH FIGURE BETTS CAN PSILINK US WITH LONGSHOT-- SO WE'LL "SEE" WHAT HE DOES WHEN HE "READS" ITS HISTORY. FAIR ENOUGH?
A SOUND MOVE, ROGUE.

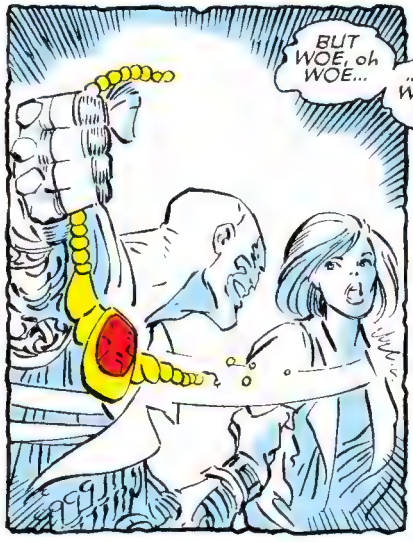

BUT WON'T HE GO INTO SHOCK AGAIN --?!
THAT WAS FROM "READING" THE ENTIRE TREASURE TROVE, ALISON.
BUT I'LL MONITOR AND SHIELD HIM, TO ENSURE THERE'S NO DANGER.
IT'S OKAY, ALI, I'M NOT SCARED.

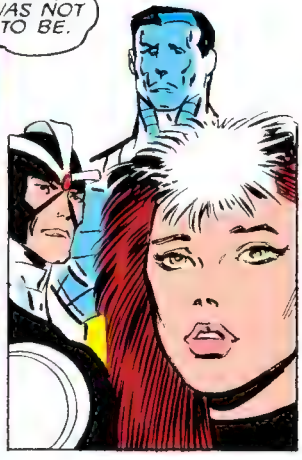
Gasp!
THIS IS FANTASTIC--
--AS THOUGH I'M PRESENT, WATCHING THESE EVENTS ACTUALLY HAPPEN!

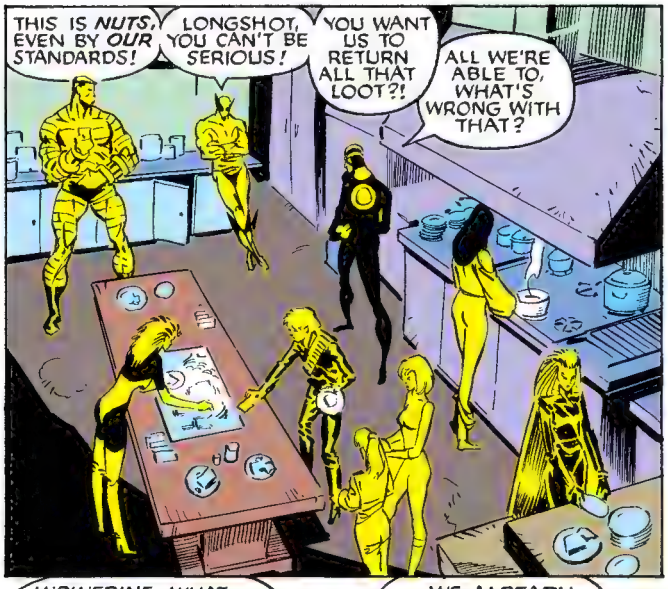

MADE, WAS I, WITH ALL THE SKILL OF A MASTER ARTISAN'S HAND.
GIVEN, WAS I, WITH ALL THE LOVE IN A PROUD FATHER'S HEART.

PASSED DOWN, WAS I, FROM MOTHER TO DAUGHTER...
... FROM THEN TILL NOW.
THE BEATLES

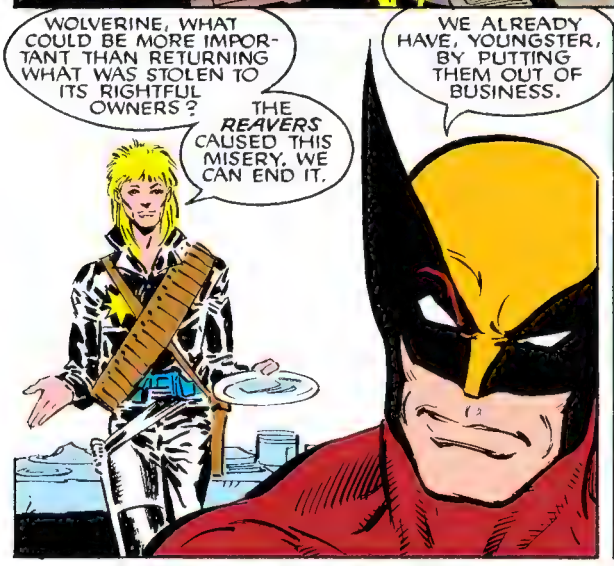
AND WHEN YOU COME OF AGE, HONEYBUNCH...
... THIS'LL BE YOURS, TO WEAR AND KEEP...
... TILL YOU HAVE A GIRL OF YOUR OWN.


BUT WOE, oh WOE...
... THAT WAS NOT TO BE.

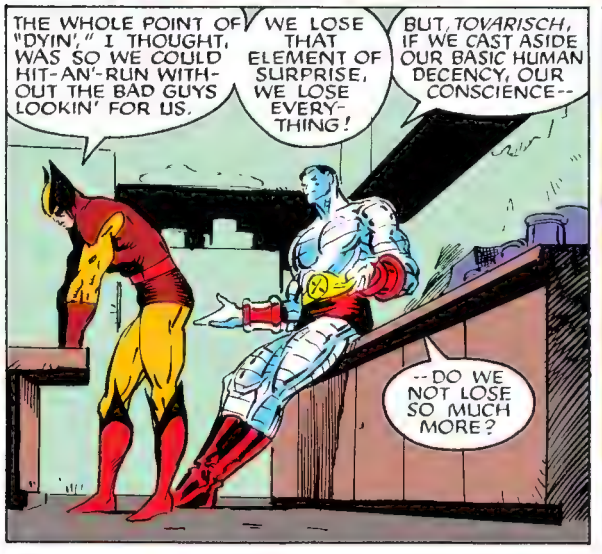



THIS IS NUTS, EVEN BY OUR STANDARDS!
LONGSHOT, YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
YOU WANT US TO RETURN ALL THAT LOOT?!
ALL WE'RE ABLE TO, WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?

YOU SUGGESTING WE KEEP IT?
I'M "SUGGESTING," BOY, THAT MAYBE THE X-MEN GOT MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO.
I'M NOT A BOY, MISTER.
COULD'A FOOLED ME, SOMETIMES.


WOLVERINE, WHAT COULD BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN RETURNING WHAT WAS STOLEN TO ITS RIGHTFUL OWNERS?
THE REAVERS CAUSED THIS MISERY. WE CAN END IT.
WE ALREADY HAVE, YOUNGSTER, BY PUTTING THEM OUT OF BUSINESS.

WHAT'S THE LINE: "THE EVIL THAT MEN DO OFT LIVES AFTER THEM, THE GOOD IS OFT INTERRED WITH THEIR BONES"?
IS IT SUFFICIENT TO SIMPLY DEFEAT THE VILLAINS?
WORKS FINE FOR ME.
WHY CAN'T WE TRY TO PUT RIGHT THE HARM THEY'VE DONE?


THE WHOLE POINT OF "DYIN'," I THOUGHT, WAS SO WE COULD HIT-AN'-RUN WITHOUT THE BAD GUYS LOOKIN' FOR US.
WE LOSE THAT ELEMENT OF SURPRISE, WE LOSE EVERYTHING!
BUT, TOVARISCH, IF WE CAST ASIDE OUR BASIC HUMAN DECENCY, OUR CONSCIENCE--
--DO WE NOT LOSE SO MUCH MORE?

THIS MAY NOT BE PRACTICAL, LOGAN, BUT I AGREE WITH THE OTHERS.
IT IS NECESSARY.
YOU'RE THE BOSS. BUT EVEN ASSUMING LONGSHOT CAN PINPOINT THE ORIGINS OF EVERY PIECE IN THAT FLAMIN' CAVERN...

"HOW'RE WE GONNA GET 'EM HOME?!"

"FIRST THINGS FIRST, MY FRIEND," IS HER QUIET REPLY.

AND WITH THE FOLLOWING DAWN, THEY BEGIN.

LONGSHOT "READS" EACH PIECE-- WHILE PSYLOCKE BOTH SUSTAINS AND SHIELDS HIM WITH HER TELEPATHY...

...SIMULTANEOUSLY TRANSFERRING THE APPROPRIATE DATA VIA MINDLINK...

...TO MADELYNE...

...WHO DOES HER BEST TO PLOT ITS LOCATION.

IT'S A LONG, HARD, WEARING PROCESS-- THE ENTIRE TEAM STAGGERED BY THE AMOUNT OF TREASURE THE REAVERS HAD AMASSED--

--BUT, EVENTUALLY...

SIX PILES-- ONE FOR EACH CONTINENT--

THOSE SUCKERS GOT AROUND.

--PLUS THAT SEVENTH, FOR ITEMS WHICH POSSESS NO RESONANCE AND CANNOT BE RETURNED.

PRETTY FLAMIN' IMPRESSIVE.

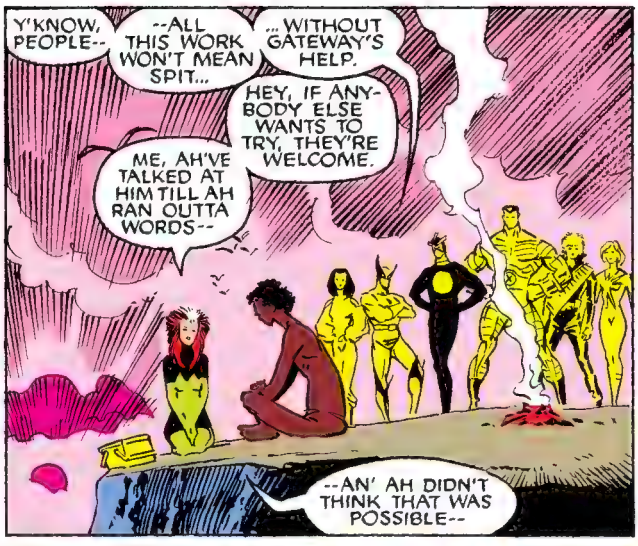
I'D TRADE IT ALL FOR THAT BIKE.

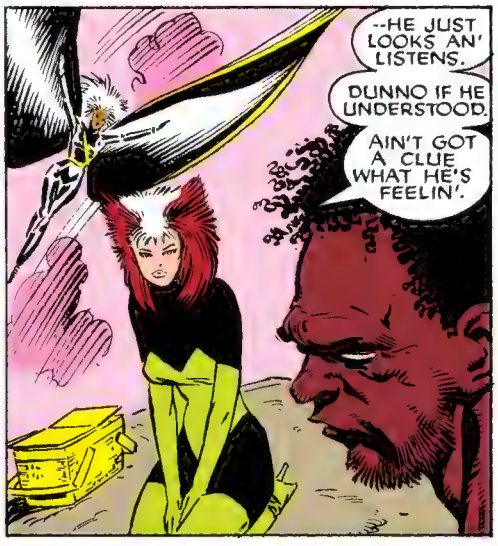
LIKE IT, DO YOU, DARLIN'?

OH, WOLVERINE--

--IF EVER *ANYTHING* IN THE WORLD WAS MADE FOR ME...

I HOPE ITS OWNER APPRECIATES WHAT WE'RE GIVING BACK.


Y'KNOW, PEOPLE--
--ALL THIS WORK WON'T MEAN SPIT...
...WITHOUT GATEWAY'S HELP.
HEY, IF ANYBODY ELSE WANTS TO TRY, THEY'RE WELCOME.
ME, AH'VE TALKED AT HIM TILL AH RAN OUTTA WORDS--
--AN' AH DIDN'T THINK THAT WAS POSSIBLE--

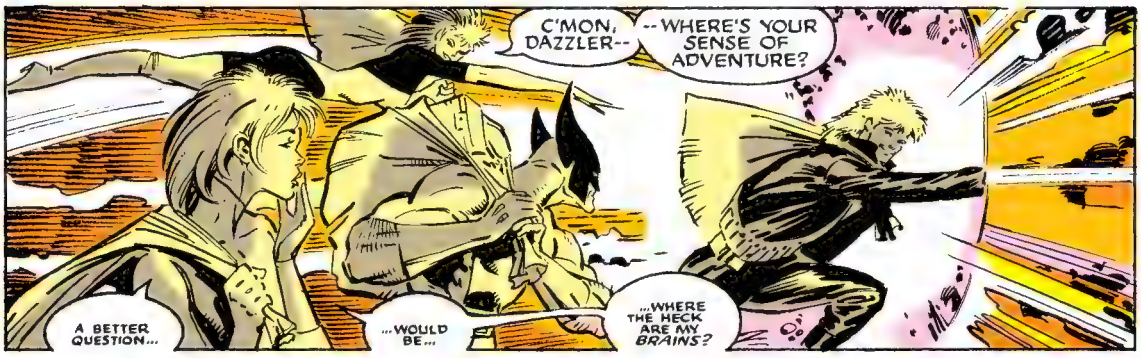

--HE JUST LOOKS AN' LISTENS.
DUNNO IF HE UNDERSTOOD.
AIN'T GOT A CLUE WHAT HE'S FEELIN'.

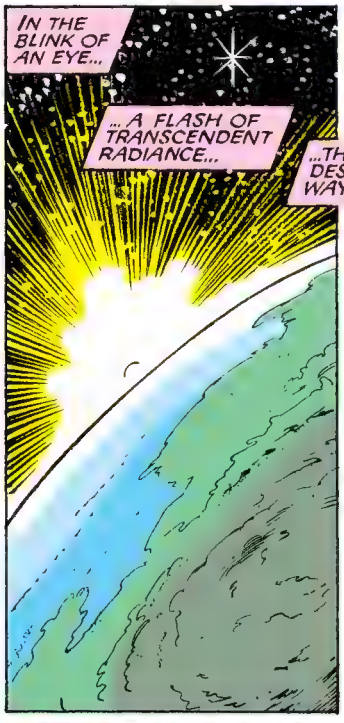
AT WHICH POINT...
YA! OWHH!
GATEWAY'S BONFIRE--
--IT'S ALIGHT!

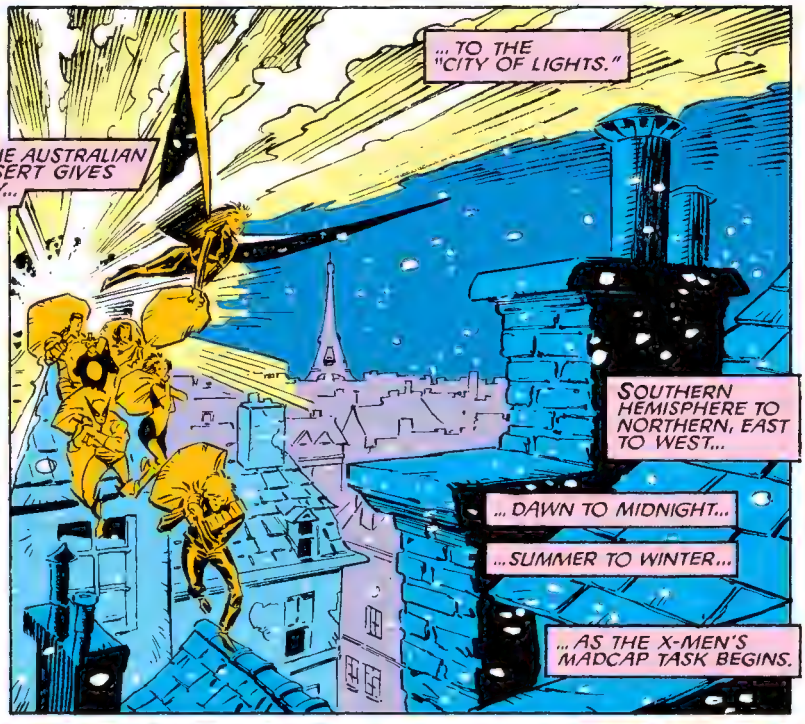
BLESS YOUR HEART, YOU DARLIN', YOU!
AH KNEW YOU'D COME THROUGH FOR US!!
BUT HOW'S HE GOING TO KNOW WHERE TO SEND US?
I SHALL TELL HIM, HAVOK...

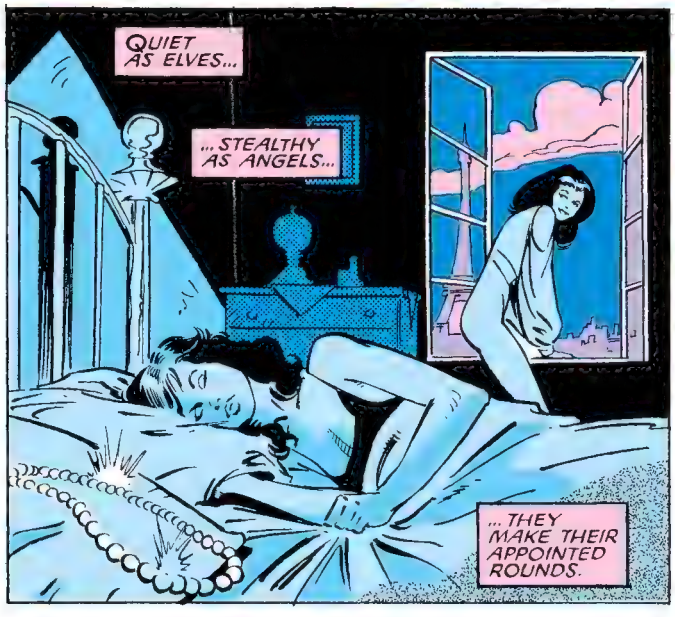
...TELE-PATHICALLY.

Y'KNOW--WE'RE PUTTING OUR LIVES IN HIS HANDS-
--HOW DO WE KNOW WE CAN TRUST HIM?
BECAUSE, ALISON, WHAT WE'RE DOING IS RIGHT.
AH GOT NOTHIN' RATIONAL TO BASE THIS ON--
--ONLY MY INSTINCTS...
...AN' THE LOOK IN HIS EYE--
--BUT AH SAY, GO FOR IT!


C'MON, DAZZLER--
--WHERE'S YOUR SENSE OF ADVENTURE?
A BETTER QUESTION...
...WOULD BE...
...WHERE THE HECK ARE MY BRAINS?


IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE...
...A FLASH OF TRANSCENDENT RADIANCE...

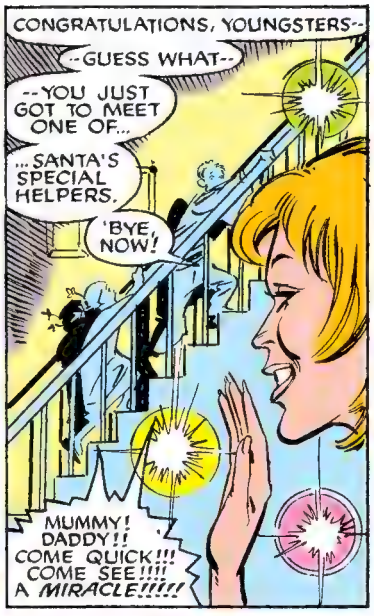

...THE AUSTRALIAN DESERT GIVES WAY...
...TO THE "CITY OF LIGHTS."
SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE TO NORTHERN, EAST TO WEST...
...DAWN TO MIDNIGHT...
...SUMMER TO WINTER...
...AS THE X-MEN'S MADCAP TASK BEGINS.


QUIET AS ELVES...
...STEALTHY AS ANGELS...
...THEY MAKE THEIR APPOINTED ROUNDS.

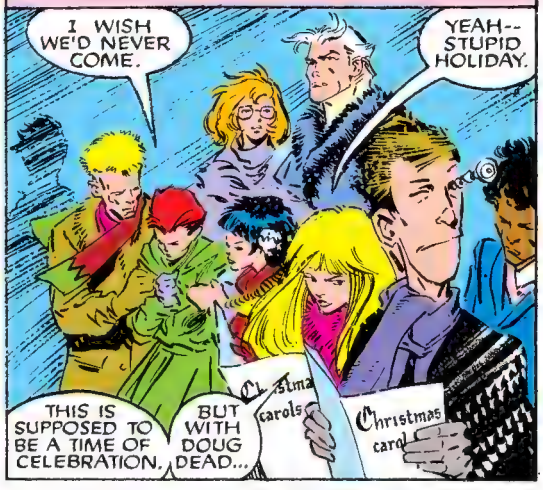
CORBY, NORTHANTS, ENGLAND.
I TELL YOU...
...I HEARD A NOISE...
...SOMEONE'S DOWNSTAIRS!
SILLY LITTLE BABY, I'LL SHOW YOU NOBODY'S--
--GASP!?!

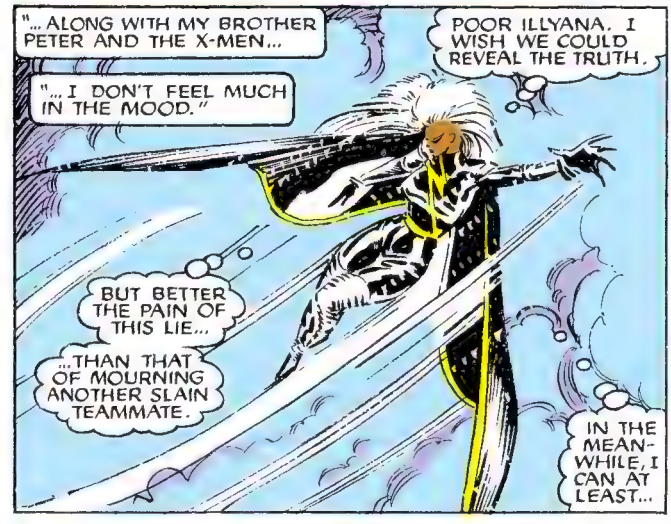
IS SHE A THIEF?
NO--LOOK--SHE'S LEAVING PRESENTS!

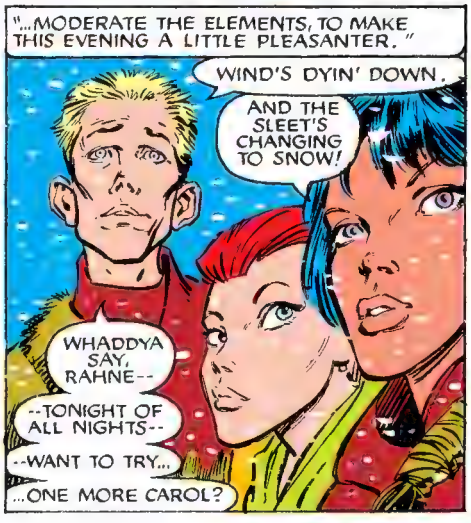
Shshshsh!
FOLKS ARE FAST ASLEEP.
DON'T WANT TO WAKE 'EM NOW, DO WE?


CONGRATULATIONS, YOUNGSTERS--
--GUESS WHAT--
--YOU JUST GOT TO MEET ONE OF...
...SANTA'S SPECIAL HELPERS.
'BYE, NOW!
MUMMY! DADDY!! COME QUICK!!! COME SEE!!!! A MIRACLE!!!!!

SALEM CENTER, NEW YORK...
... AS THE TOWN'S COMBINED SCHOOL CHOIRS PIT THEIR VOICES...
... AGAINST A VICIOUS SNOWSQUALL.


AMONG THE SINGERS, THE SURVIVING STUDENTS OF PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL--OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NEW MUTANTS.
I WISH WE'D NEVER COME.
YEAH--STUPID HOLIDAY.
THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE A TIME OF CELEBRATION.
BUT WITH DOUG DEAD...
Christmas carols
Christmas carol


"... ALONG WITH MY BROTHER PETER AND THE X-MEN...
"... I DON'T FEEL MUCH IN THE MOOD."
POOR ILLYANA. I WISH WE COULD REVEAL THE TRUTH.
BUT BETTER THE PAIN OF THIS LIE...
...THAN THAT OF MOURNING ANOTHER SLAIN TEAMMATE.
IN THE MEAN-WHILE, I CAN AT LEAST...


"...MODERATE THE ELEMENTS, TO MAKE THIS EVENING A LITTLE PLEASANTER."
WIND'S DYIN' DOWN.
AND THE SLEET'S CHANGING TO SNOW!
WHADDYA SAY, RAHNE--
--TONIGHT OF ALL NIGHTS--
--WANT TO TRY...
...ONE MORE CAROL?

BULLPEN BULLETINS

ITEM: You wouldn't think that annihilating a major U.S. city would create such a stir . . . ! When word of Pittsburgh's impending destruction in the New Universe's THE PITT Bookshelf Edition leaked out, the Marvel offices were stormed with interested and indignant inquiries from the various media of the doomed city (doomed in the New Universe, anyway!). It started with radio station WXXP, and eventually *The Pittsburgh Press*, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, Point Park College's *The Globe*, WTAE radio, and even KDKA television interviewed the various creative parties responsible and ran articles or segments about the tragedy. What the Pittsburgh area media wanted to know was: *"Why us?"* We tried to explain that the obliteration of America's Most Liveable City was a dramatic outgrowth of the ongoing storyline in STAR BRAND, but they seemed less than satisfied. However, when we pointed out that the three creative types who brainstormed the idea of Pittsburgh's demise, New U editor *Howard Mackie*, and writers *John Byrne* and *Mark Gruenwald*, are "killed" in the very same issue that Pittsburgh is, they were a bit more mollified. Thanks go to *Kelly O'Toole* of the Greater Pittsburgh Office of Promotion for helping us get our side of the story out, and to the people of the greater Pittsburgh area for being such sports about your fictional nuking.

ITEM: We're in the midst of preparing a profusely-illustrated "coffee table" book telling the history of Marvel Comics from the 1930s to the present for publication in late '88. Unfortunately, our archives don't contain everything we'd like to include in the book. We're especially interested in locating unpublished covers; uninked, penciled pages by Marvel artists; preliminary design sketches for Marvel characters; and old photos of the Marvel offices and staff. If *you* should happen to have such collector's pieces in your collection, we'd like to arrange to copy them so they can be included in the book. Write us in care of Mark Gruenwald. History will thank you.

ITEM: One of comic fandom's largest-circulation weekly newspapers, *The Comics Buyer's Guide*, is holding their annual Fan Awards to determine your favorite writer, penciler, inker, colorist, letterer, editor, story, character and a whole slew of other faves. If you would like to make your favorites known, pick up a copy of this month's MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE for the official ballot, or fill out one of your own according to the rules below. Tell them Marvel sent you!

Comics Buyer's Guide Fan Awards for 1987

1. Favorite Editor, 2. Favorite Writer, 3. Favorite Penciller, 4. Favorite Inker, 5. Favorite Colorist 6. Favorite Letterer, 7. Favorite Cover Artist, 8. Favorite Comic-Book Story, 9. Favorite Comic Book, 10. Favorite Limited Comic-Book Series, 11. Favorite Original Graphic Novel, 12. Favorite Reprint Graphic Novel, 13. Favorite Character, 14. Favorite Publication about Comics, and Phil Seuling Award for Favorite Direct-Sale-Only Title.

Only material cover-dated 1987 is eligible for consideration. Votes for ineligible material will not be counted.

Anyone may copy and circulate this ballot, and any fan may vote only once and vote for no more than one nominee in each category. Ballot-box stuffing will result in the destruction of all ballots involved. You need not vote in all categories. *Comics Buyer's Guide* is not eligible for Category 14.

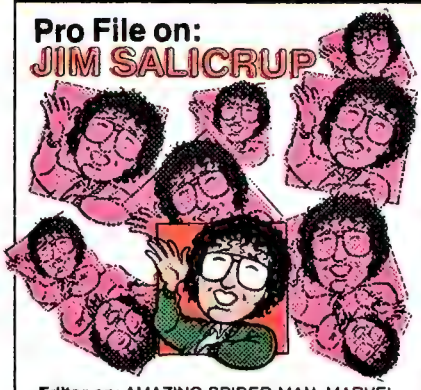
A free copy of *Comics Buyer's Guide* #756, dated May 13, 1988 (which will carry the results of voting), will be sent to any U.S. voter who does not already have a current or expired subscription to *CBG*. Votes from other countries will be counted, but we regret that a sample copy cannot be sent unless the vote is accompanied by $1.50 in U.S. funds to cover costs of handling and shipping to another country.

Mail your ballot individually in a single envelope by March 31, 1988, to: *Comics Buyer's Guide* Fan Awards, 700 East State Street, Iola, Wisconsin 54990.

Include your **Name, Age, Sex, Street or Box, City, State, and ZIP.**

Please type or print your votes and information clearly.

Pro File on: JIM SALICRUP



Editor on: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, MARVEL TALES, SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, SPIDER-MAN COMICS MAGAZINE, WEB OF SPIDER-MAN, AND WHAT THE—?!, a new humor comic in the tradition of NOT BRAND ECCH.

Marvel freelance credits (past): I wrote SPIDEY SUPER STORIES, the Spider-Man story in SPIDER-MAN AND THE POWER PACK Child Abuse prevention comic, THE A-TEAM, THE TRANSFORMERS, THE INHUMANIODS, THE VISIONARIES, KOOL-AID MAN, QUIK BUNNY, and many more that even I won't admit to.

My hobbies are: Non-existent.

The single work of which I am most proud is: THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS TOILET PAPER starring THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN and THE INCREDIBLE HULK. If people didn't like the story they knew what they could do with it.

My pet peeves are: Those people out there who're going around calling others Marvel Zombies! I've even launched a series of editorials in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE crusading against this epidemic. And I promise each and every one of you that I won't rest until this long national nightmare is over.

My place of birth is: The same as most Marvel Universe characters—Manhattan.

My greatest accomplishment outside the comics field is: Finding an affordable apartment near my place of birth.

My oddest habit is: Waking up at 6:00 AM three times a week to take an aerobics class at a place they laughingly call the "Joy of Movement."

If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by: Jerry Lewis. At least they'd love it in France.

The reason I got into comics was: It's one of the greatest loves of my life.

People who knew me in High School thought I was: The luckiest guy in the world to already be working at Marvel.

My favorite performers are: Ringo Starr, Merv Griffin, Alice Cooper, Buster Poindexter, Lassie, Captain Kangaroo, Jack Benny, Bob Hope, William Powell, Myrna Loy, Carole Lombard, Mariel Hemingway, Brooke Shields, and many, many more.

The last good book I read was: SLAVES OF NEW YORK by Tama Janowitz.

The last good movie I saw was: SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS

The biggest influences on my work include: Stan Lee, Jim Shooter, and Andy Warhol.

My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: To make AMAZING SPIDER-MAN the number one best-selling comic in the world.

The worst part of my job is: Finding enough time to do everything I want to do.

When nobody's looking I like to: Plug MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE.

The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: That Glenn Herdling and Dwight Jon Zimmerman do all my work.

CHECKLIST

- ☐ DAREDEVIL #255
- ☐ WEST COAST AVENGERS #33
- ☐ G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #11
- ☐ STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #19
- ☐ TALES OF G.I. JOE #6
- ☐ WHAT IF . . . ? SPECIAL #1
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #342
- ☐ SOLO AVENGERS #7
- ☐ STRANGE TALES #15
- ☐ ALPHA FLIGHT #59
- ☐ THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #301
- ☐ THE NEW MUTANTS #64
- ☐ THE INCREDIBLE HULK #344
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #212
- ☐ THE AVENGERS #292
- ☐ CONAN THE BARBARIAN #207
- ☐ G.I. JOE #72
- ☐ THE PUNISHER #9
- ☐ SILVER SURFER #12
- ☐ THE UNCANNY X-MEN #230
- ☐ MARVEL FANFARE #38
- ☐ THE FANTASTIC FOUR #315
- ☐ IRON MAN #231
- ☐ THOR #392
- ☐ CLASSIC X-MEN #22
- ☐ THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #139
- ☐ TRANSFORMERS #41
- ☐ X-FACTOR #29
- ☐ THE 'NAM #19

MARVEL BOOKSHELF

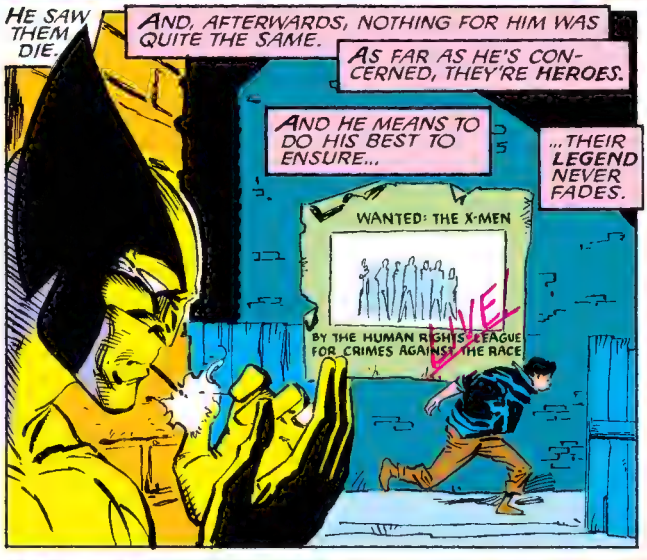
- ☐ SIX FROM SIRIUS Trade Paperback
- ☐ THE PUNISHER AND DAREDEVIL Trade Paperback — Re-presenting from DAREDEVIL #s 182–184. Written and penciled by Frank Miller and inked by Klaus Janson. 64 pages.
- ☐ CLOAK & DAGGER GRAPHIC NOVEL: "PREDATOR AND PREY" — Cloak finally discovers the reason for his insatiable hunger for light. Written by Bill Mantlo, penciled by Larry Stroman, and inked by Al Williamson.

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #148
- ☐ MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #63
- ☐ G.I. JOE COMICS MAGAZINE #10
- ☐ CONAN SAGA #13
- ☐ THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE AVENGERS #6

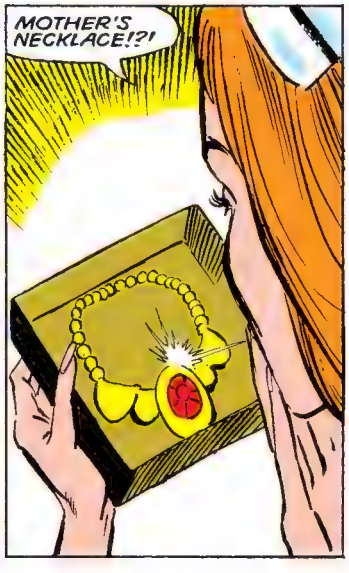
SHE'S RELUCTANT AT FIRST, THE WORDS COME HALTINGLY--
-- BUT SLOWLY, GENTLY, THE BEAUTY OF THE SONG MIXES WITH THAT OF THE MOMENT...
...TO CREATE A SPECIAL MAGIC THAT TOUCHES ALL THEIR HEARTS WITH JOY...
...AND PEACE.

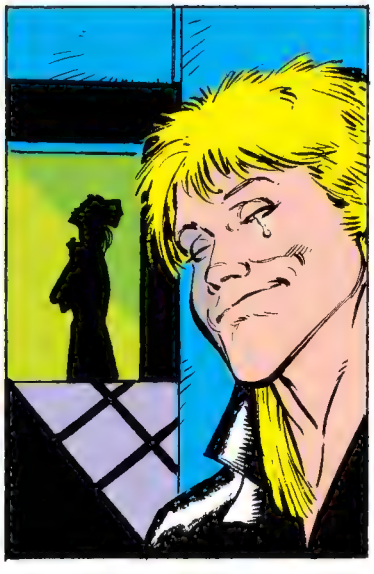
HONG KONG.
BILLY MAO NEVER MET A MUTANT IN HIS LIFE.
AND HE NEVER EVEN KNEW THE X-MEN EXISTED...
WANTED: THE X-MEN
BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS
FOR CRIMES AGAINST THE
...TILL HE WATCHED THEM ON TV.

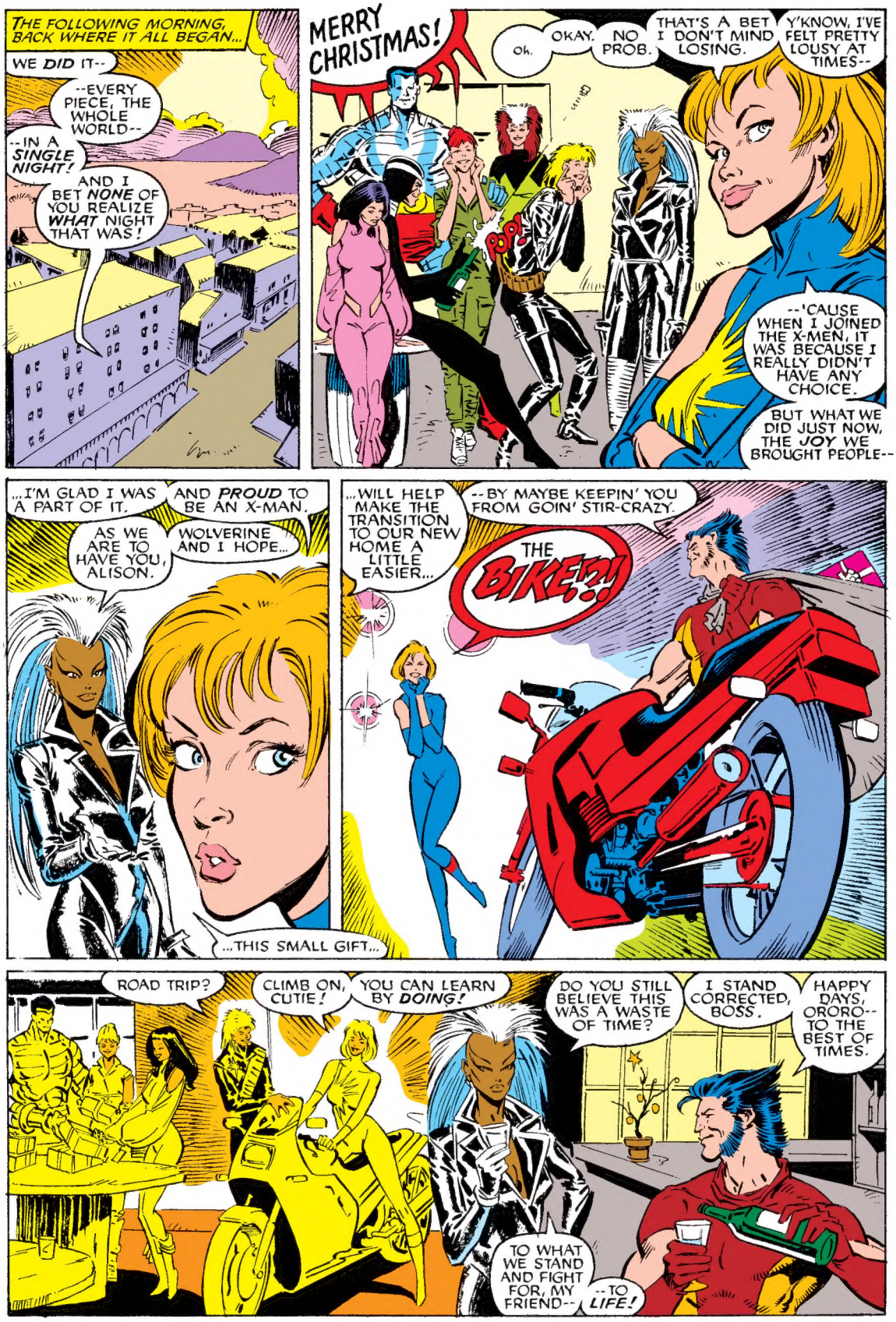

HE SAW THEM DIE.
AND, AFTERWARDS, NOTHING FOR HIM WAS QUITE THE SAME.
AS FAR AS HE'S CONCERNED, THEY'RE HEROES.
AND HE MEANS TO DO HIS BEST TO ENSURE...
...THEIR LEGEND NEVER FADES.
WANTED: THE X-MEN
BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS LEAGUE FOR CRIMES AGAINST THE RACE
LIVE!

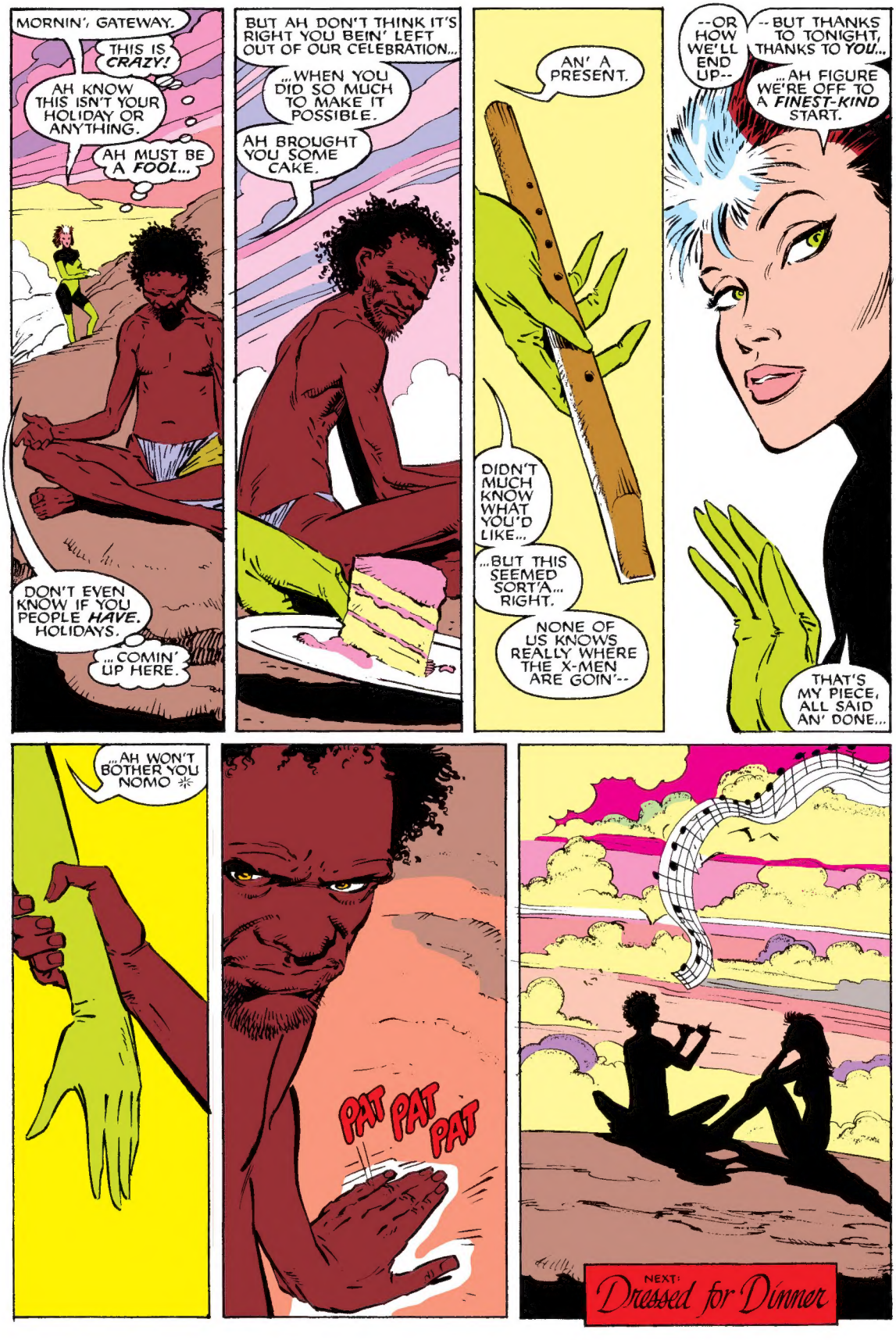
BOSTON...
St. ANDREW'S HOSPITAL

ATRICS
C.C.U.
WHAT'S THIS?!


MOTHER'S NECKLACE!?!




THE FOLLOWING MORNING, BACK WHERE IT ALL BEGAN...
WE DID IT--
--EVERY PIECE, THE WHOLE WORLD--
--IN A SINGLE NIGHT!
AND I BET NONE OF YOU REALIZE WHAT NIGHT THAT WAS!
MERRY CHRISTMAS!
Oh.
OKAY.
NO PROB.
THAT'S A BET I DON'T MIND LOSING.
Y'KNOW, I'VE FELT PRETTY LOUSY AT TIMES--
POP!
--'CAUSE WHEN I JOINED THE X-MEN, IT WAS BECAUSE I REALLY DIDN'T HAVE ANY CHOICE.
BUT WHAT WE DID JUST NOW, THE JOY WE BROUGHT PEOPLE--
...I'M GLAD I WAS A PART OF IT.
AND PROUD TO BE AN X-MAN.
AS WE ARE TO HAVE YOU, ALISON.
WOLVERINE AND I HOPE...
...THIS SMALL GIFT...
...WILL HELP MAKE THE TRANSITION TO OUR NEW HOME A LITTLE EASIER...
--BY MAYBE KEEPIN' YOU FROM GOIN' STIR-CRAZY.
THE BIKE?!
ROAD TRIP?
CLIMB ON, CUTIE!
YOU CAN LEARN BY DOING!
DO YOU STILL BELIEVE THIS WAS A WASTE OF TIME?
I STAND CORRECTED, BOSS.
HAPPY DAYS, ORORO--TO THE BEST OF TIMES.
TO WHAT WE STAND AND FIGHT FOR, MY FRIEND--
--TO LIFE!


MORNIN', GATEWAY.
THIS IS CRAZY!
AH KNOW THIS ISN'T YOUR HOLIDAY OR ANYTHING.
AH MUST BE A FOOL...
DON'T EVEN KNOW IF YOU PEOPLE HAVE. HOLIDAYS.
...COMIN' UP HERE.
BUT AH DON'T THINK IT'S RIGHT YOU BEIN' LEFT OUT OF OUR CELEBRATION...
...WHEN YOU DID SO MUCH TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE.
AH BROUGHT YOU SOME CAKE.
AN' A PRESENT.
DIDN'T MUCH KNOW WHAT YOU'D LIKE...
...BUT THIS SEEMED SORT'A... RIGHT.
NONE OF US KNOWS REALLY WHERE THE X-MEN ARE GOIN'--
--OR HOW WE'LL END UP--
--BUT THANKS TO TONIGHT, THANKS TO YOU...
...AH FIGURE WE'RE OFF TO A FINEST-KIND START.
THAT'S MY PIECE, ALL SAID AN' DONE...
...AH WON'T BOTHER YOU NOMO
PAT PAT PAT
NEXT: Dressed for Dinner

X-MAIL

MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

ANN NOCENTI
EDITOR
TERRY KAVANAGH
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear X-People,

Well, I've just finished reading X-MEN #219 and I'm a little shaken, to say the least. I can't really figure out if it was the best or the worst X-MEN I've read yet! Maybe, when I'm finished, you guys can tell me how I'm supposed to feel.

On the good side, I loved the artwork! Bret Blevins has always done good stuff, but #219 was great! I liked the way he exaggerated certain facial features and emotions, especially Sabretooth's — now I know he's crazy! I also liked seeing the Marauders get their lumps for a change, even though it was by a Malice-possessed Polaris. That was pretty scary, too, knowing that Polaris is in the hands of the Marauders now. I can tell that she's going to give the X-Men some serious problems in the future.

Speaking of problems, this issue had several of them. First off, what happened between the last page of #218 and the first page of #219? Not one word was mentioned about the Brood this entire issue. The Brood are a rather intense problem and I would have thought that would have been the first thing Alex mentioned to the X-Men when he saw them. I guess you'll cover that in #220. Also, why should Alex have to come back on his own anyway? Why should Storm and the X-Men want to keep him out? If I were in their place, I'd be calling in any and all reserve members that I could! Surely, Storm realizes that the only way to combat and defeat the Marauders is by banding together. The Marauders are everyone's problem and they have more success killing their targets one by one. The longer the X-Men stay apart, the less chance they have of surviving. The Marauders are probably the greatest threat the X-Men have faced since Dark Phoenix and they've got to change their tactics if they hope to defeat the Marauders!

Probably the most distressing panel in this issue was the one where Storm and Psylocke were discussing what to do with Havok! I liked Psylocke up until the point where she suggested they kill him. What in the world kind of logic is that? They want to protect Havok from the Marauders by killing him? I don't know if it's occurred to you people, but there is a severe difference between amputating your leg because of gangrene and amputating it because of athlete's foot. Alex has enough worries of his own without having to worry about this! Perhaps there is a method to your madness but think about these things before you write them.

Eric Webster
8325 Anemone Lane
Indianapolis, IN 46219

The X-Men as a whole certainly recognize all of the differences that you cited, Eric, and they fight for those ideals every day, in every way. That's why Havok is among them now — but, it's also why Polaris is an unwilling member of the Marauders.

And, if you liked Bret Blevins' distinctive style here in the pages of X-MEN #219, then you really should check out THE NEW MUTANTS these days. Louise Simonson and Bret have created their own unique interpretations of the kids — and we (along with about a zillion other fans) think the book is better than ever!

Dear Ann and Co.,

It has finally been done. The extermination of the Morlocks, sadly, has happened. The X-Men saga has been playing nothing but sad notes for the past few years, and I feel it's building up to a death march. The anti-mutant hysteria is depressing and frightening, especially for me, since I have been on both the giving and receiving end of discrimination with all its terror and confusion. I dream — I fantasize of various happy endings for the X-Men and mutantkind, but even in the Marvel Universe there is reality. There will always be the waiting and the hoping. To see any of my heroes die is terrifying and the thought of you taking away my favorite, Rogue, is beyond the capacity of words to describe.

There have been many personal triumphs for each of the X-Men as well as the triumphs they have achieved for humanity, but nobody seems to care. In fact, the reverse is true — they are so easily condemned. Frustrating. Of course, I must admit that I feel a perverse enjoyment from this frustration, from hoping for happiness and salvation, then finding each issue a moot point. My heroes experience reality and they are not helpless. My heroes are as human as I — we are so very different from each other and that makes us all equal. They have won my heart. I can sense a lot more confrontations ahead — inevitable clashes with X-Factor, Nimrod, Mojo and company! Throughout the Mutant Massacre, Wolverine has sensed Jean Grey's existence and it may not be long till Phoenix does, too! It's just a matter of when. That's why I enjoy finding the thread in this tapestry of intrigue, being led on and on with each issue. Although, I fervently wish to see my fantasies printed, I'll have to take reality as it is. X-People, you have done a magnificent job and I'll take the X-Men as they come.

But please, my only request is that you don't kill any more X-Men or take away their powers. It's a feeble request worthy of a child, but then it is the child in me who is constantly terrified by the anti-mutant hysteria, who rejoices and suffers with my heroes, who lives and dies with them. THE X-MEN has touched me that much.

Azham Abdullah
139 S. 1200 East #4
Salt Lake City, UT 84102

Well, Azham, we're sorry to say that we did, effectively, kill the X-Men, but it must console you to realize that with their deaths, mutant hysteria has been . . . questioned, at least. And, of course, the X-Men as legends are proving more powerful than ever — even if it did cost them their humanity!

Dear Chris, Ann, and Co.,

Upon coming on my tenth year of collecting comics, I felt compelled to write and tell you how I think you've been doing. In one word — great!

But I do have some comments and complaints. For things I like — Logan finally taking the mantle of leadership that Jim Hudson planned for him (albeit with a different group), Rogue going from the least trusted to one of the core members of the group (more on her later), Lt. Morrel (liked her from the first, just like I did Jean DeWolff), the news that Storm's getting a new look (I was getting tired of "Ms. Mohawk"), and Longshot (I loved the Limited Series and am patiently waiting for the follow-up).

For things I don't like — Daz's costume (I realize it helps her store sound energy but I hate the way it looks), the whole "hate the mutie" line. Regardless of whether or not it may be how normal people react, it seems to be a national paranoia in the Marvel line. To me, it's just getting a little tiring. As far as character background goes, I don't know about Psylocke — maybe her history was shown in CAPTAIN BRITAIN, I don't follow any line with him in it. Longshot's was shown in his series, as was Dazzler's in hers. Havok's we know, and Logan's I would like kept shrouded. But Rogue we know practically nothing about, her real name, how she came to be involved with Mystique, etc. We know where she's from, how she learned about her powers, and we've had hints that her family may have been well-to-do, but that's it. If any character deserves a Limited Series, it's her.

Tom Quinn
P.O. Box 614
Davisville, RI 02854

You'll probably be getting to understand Captain Britain a lot better real soon, Tom, if you intend to follow the adventures of Chris Claremont's newest mutant team, Excalibur. After all, the good Captain is the leader of the group — at least as much as any man, even an incredibly powerful one, can lead a band that consists of a feral creature like his girlfriend Meggan, adolescent Kitty Pryde, independent Nightcrawler and . . . Phoenix! 'Nuff said!

Dear X-People,

X-MEN #219 was great! Havok joins — yeah! Polaris a Marauder — I love it! The team's all back together again. It may not be the same one it was a year ago or twenty years ago, but as time goes on so does life. Both good and bad things happen in that passing time, but the difficult part is to live with what occurs. I'm sure many others had a hard time realizing how greatly the X-Men have changed.

I seriously disagreed with how the team had turned out except for the addition of Longshot. About Longshot, I think he's the best all-time X-Man ever! Even better than Wolverine. It was the perfect time for him to join, since the X-Men lost both their comedians recently (Shadowcat and Nightcrawler). Longshot has certainly shown a comedic side.

What will become of Nightcrawler, Shadowcat, Colossus, and Phoenix? Do they get one way tickets off to Marvel Limbo? Please, please, please keep Shadowcat around. She has great leadership potential and she's my favorite. Keep her among the X-Men, please!

Please give us Rogue's complete origin. Next to Longshot and Shadowcat, she's my favorite!

Bill Trecker
9491 Meadowwoods Lane
Spring Valley, OH 45370

It looks like we're going to have to deal with Rogue's roots sooner rather than later, Bill. That is, if we want to be able to feel safe walking the streets at night. We'll be sure to get Chris going on it right away . . .

MINUTEMEN

Sy13nt
Bob